

Will she berate gays and lesbians?
Dr. Laura Schlessinger takes her shock
talk to the small screen starting Mon.
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Gender is where it's at
and GenderPAC moves to
D.C. with a full-time staff.
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Stud provocateur
Coley Cochran, as drawn by
comix artist John Blackburn.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 36 • 7 September 2000

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Check that lube to see if it contains
nonoxonyl-9, which may increase
HIV transmission.

N-9 can cause HIV infection

by Terry Beswick

For years, men and women have been using sexual lubricants and pre-lubed condoms containing a spermicidal detergent called nonoxonyl-9 (N-9) believing that they are protecting themselves from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Now, it appears that they have been wrong. Dead wrong.

And thus far, no public or private agency in San Francisco has taken steps to warn them about it, though one lube manufacturer has recently taken the substance out of their product.

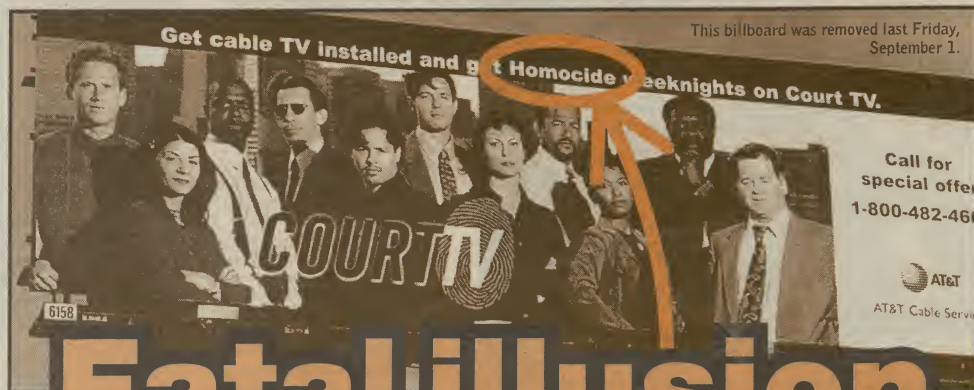
"N-9 has now been proven ineffective against HIV transmission, [and] the possibility of risk, with no benefit, indicates that N-9 should not be recommended as an effective means of HIV prevention," read a "Dear Colleague" letter dated August 4 from Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

N-9, a spermicide approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as a contraceptive, is widely added to many sexual lubricants and condoms. Although it was previously believed that the chemical could reduce the risk of HIV infection, the additive could actually be leaving consumers more vulnerable to infection by creating perforations in the vaginal or rectal walls.

"Anyone currently using N-9 as a microbicide to protect themselves from HIV transmission during anal intercourse should be informed of the ineffectiveness of this agent and warned of the potential risk of this practice," said Gayle.

Gayle's letter was prompted by a study of over 1,000 African female sex workers, in which half of the women were given a gel laced with N-9, and the other half were given a placebo gel that appeared to be identical, but contained no N-9. Both groups of women in the study, sponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS, were reportedly encouraged to use condoms,

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Fatal Illusion AT&T removes 'Homocide' billboard

by Katie Szymanski

It is a little unnerving for a billboard—particularly one on the edge of a gay district—to boldly advertise the word, "Homocide." That's Homo-cide, as in the murder of homos, not "Homicide" as the billboard was supposed to have read.

The billboard—sponsored by AT&T Cable Services and meant to promote a popular show available through cable programming on Court TV—loomed above 7th and Harrison streets for more than a week. It was removed last Friday, September 1, more than a few days after an anonymous city resident placed a call to complain. The billboard also graced four additional skylines across the city, according to AT&T representatives.

AT&T officials, when contacted by the Bay Area Reporter, were appalled to learn of the billboard's content.

"Good lord that doesn't sound like us," Burke Stinson, a spokesman for AT&T advertising at the main offices in New Jersey, told the B.A.R. "I can assure you it is nothing we'd do, for two reasons: we are a forerunner in

non-discrimination policy that dates back to the 1970s, and secondly, I'd like to think we know how to spell."

"If it's a vandal we'll patch it," said Stinson, "and if it's more severe, like an error in design, we'll do something about it."

That was the question that the B.A.R. had for AT&T: was this billboard, in fact, the result of a mass-produced typo, and did a sign hang in every city and small town across the country promoting Homocide?

The only Homocide billboards were in San Francisco, according to Andrew Johnson, executive director of communications for AT&T Broadband. All five have since been removed and/or fixed.

As for whether the billboard was a misspelling, Johnson's answer seemed a bit ominous.

"I don't know if I would characterize it as a misspelling," Johnson told the B.A.R. "Here's what we do know: when the artwork left our department, it had the correct spelling. Some place in between the ad agency and billboard company, changes were made. We don't know exactly where or why. But we signed off on something that said 'homicide,' and we've double and triple checked our records on that."

Johnson would not say that there had been a deliberate altering of the word, but he also wouldn't rule it out.

"All I can tell you is that we've taken the necessary steps to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said. "We are not doing business with either the advertising agency or the billboard company until they can guarantee us that certain procedures are in place."

The advertising agency handling "Homocide" was San Francisco's Wolfe/Doyle, and the billboard company involved was Infinity, a division of Outdoor Systems Inc.

Outdoor Systems manager Lew Lillian told the B.A.R. that the billboard company is responsible only for pasting up the finished advertisement.

"It must have happened at the printer. All we do is hang things up, and those guys usually don't look at what they're hanging," said Lillian. "I can tell you that we were absolutely horrified to learn of the situation."

Andrew Clarke, the general manager for Wolfe/Doyle, told the B.A.R. that in fact the billboard error was his company's fault.

"We sent out an error, an old file," said Clarke. "Obviously we are extremely sorry about this, and have made financial reparations and are conducting an internal investigation to see how this happened."

Clarke also added that Wolfe/Doyle often does pro bono work for many gay and AIDS related causes, and that the typo was not a malicious one.

"We have always worked with all of San Francisco's diverse communities," he said. ▼

D'Anne takes the inside track in bid for supe seat

by Terry Beswick

It's great when a candidate for public office says they're going to solve virtually all of the city's problems of housing and homelessness, traffic and parking, and access to health care.

And when the new San Francisco Board of Supervisors is seated in January after the results are in from the November 7 district elections and possible December runoffs, they will have the chance to do so, assuming responsibility for the city's \$4.5 billion annual budget.

But which of the candidates has the experience in the bowels of the bureaucracy, where things either get done or they don't—regardless of how much money is thrown at the problem?

"Many candidates are claiming they are going to solve these problems," said District

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District 6 candidate Denise D'Anne

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Talbot, Cho kickoff NLGJA convention

by Terry Beswick

The 10th annual convention of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association kicks off today (Thursday, September 7) in San Francisco with a talk from David Talbot, founder and editor-in-chief of Salon.com, and a showing of Margaret Cho's live concert film, *I'm the One That I Want*.

But just to make sure the conventioning journalists don't look like they're having too much fun, the film will be followed by a question and answer session with the comedienne.

Founded in 1990 when seven lesbian and gay journalists came out of the closet after facing years of harassment in their heterosexually-dominated mainstream newsrooms, NLGJA "works with the news industry to foster fair and accurate coverage of lesbian and gay issues and opposes newsroom bias against gay men and

lesbians and all other minorities."

The four-day conference, hosted by NLGJA's Northern California chapter, continues through Sunday, September 10. The organization currently has over 1,000 members and 19 chapters in the U.S. and affiliates in Canada and Germany.

Plenaries and other forums are scheduled to address such diverse topics as the impact of the Internet on journalism, the changing roles of print journalists and editors, the fusion of technology and reporting, the gay and lesbian press, gay content on the small and silver screens, and the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Talbot, formerly arts and entertainment editor with the *San Francisco Examiner*, is scheduled to open the conference today with an address at the Argent Hotel at 50 Third Street at 6:30 p.m., and Cho's film will show at 8.

Other presenters to be featured include Peter Jennings, anchor of

ABC's *World News Tonight*; Paula Madison, vice president and news director for WNBC; Paul Steiger, managing editor and a vice president of the *Wall Street Journal*; Sarah Pettit, senior editor of *Newsweek*'s arts and entertainment section; Andrew Sullivan, author and a senior editor at *The New Republic* magazine; Michelangelo Signorile, author and editor-at-large for *Gay.com*, and Linda Villarosa, a writer with the *New York Times*.

On Saturday, *Bay Area Reporter* news editor Cynthia Laird will be appearing on a panel entitled, "News Judgment in the LGBT Press," moderated by David Bianco, publisher of *Q Syndicate*. Other panelists include Mike Bradbury, reporter with the *Seattle Gay News*, Lucia Chappelle, news producer with PlanetOut.com, Karen Ocamb, news manager for GayWired.com and political editor for *Genre* magazine. ▼

'Art for Life' hits Sonoma County

by Cynthia Laird

It's that time of year again. Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network is gearing up for its popular "Art for Life" auction and exhibit; the free exhibit starts this Wednesday, September 13 and runs through Friday, September 15, the auction is next Saturday, September 16, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at the Friedman Center in Santa Rosa.

Art for Life has grown from one artist's motivation to personally contribute to the fight against AIDS, to become Sonoma County's leading art event, drawing an attendance of 800 guests from the Bay Area and beyond. Since its inception in 1988, Art for Life has raised over \$850,000 for essential AIDS services and advocacy in Sonoma County. This year, Face to Face is aiming to break the million-dollar threshold by raising \$150,000, organizers said.

Nearly 250 artists will donate unique and beautiful works. The art collector will find everything from traditional paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry, to wild and crazy recycled sculpture, whimsical furniture, and wearable art. The array of locally produced food and wine served at Art for Life has itself become legendary. Ann Fraser will again serve as honorary hostess and live jazz will be provided by the Ben Hill Quartet. The \$50

ticket donation for the September 16 auction provides someone living with AIDS with in-home care.

New this year is the "double happiness raffle" featuring a grand prize of first-class, round-trip tickets for two to Beijing. Other luxurious prizes include a package for two at the Inn at Occidental with osmosis enzyme baths and massages, and dinner at the Bohemian Cafe; a stay at the Sonoma Mission Inn; a \$500 credit toward art purchases at Art for Life; and more. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or for extra luck, 25 tickets for \$100; they are on sale at various locations in Sonoma County.

This year's auction is dedicated to the memory of Ellen

Masland Salyer, whose model leadership and enthusiasm as a Face to Face board member and former board president, along with her love of art, played a key role in taking the event to new heights, organizers said.

The pre-auction exhibit is free and open to the public and is a great opportunity to view the hundreds of works of art. Exhibit times are from noon to 7 p.m. September 13 and 15, and from noon to 4 p.m. September 14. ▼

For more information, call (707) 544-1581. The Friedman Center is located at 4676 Mayette Avenue in Santa Rosa.

Public hearings to address off-leash areas

by Katie Szymanski

For all the squabbles and differences of opinion about off-leash dogs in Dolores Park, regular dog walkers and their supporters agree that a few things remain cold hard facts.

First, people who do not pick up after their dogs are rarely a part of the organized dog-walker group. The regularly assembled pet guardians host regular clean-up days, have installed a plastic bag dispenser, and let one another know when their dogs have done something that needs to be tidied. It's disgusting, and nobody likes it, but the regulars are often responsible for picking up what some-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay man killed in intersection was happy with life, friends say

by Ed Walsh

Friends say this may have been the best time of Barry "Beau" Gumb's life.

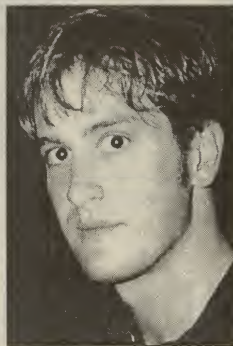
At 31, he was a very successful recruiter for the San Francisco high tech corporation, Inteliant. Last month, he purchased a home in San Francisco. Gumb had recently come out to his mother and was very comfortable being openly gay for the first time in his life.

"He was extremely happy and in a good place in his life," said best friend and former roommate Rod Seymore. "He had a lot of friends who really loved him."

Seymore last saw Gumb in his new home in Hayes Valley on Saturday, August 26. The next night, Gumb went out with a group of friends.

He was walking alone across Market Street at 16th at 12:45 a.m. on Monday, August 28, when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver. He was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital with massive head injuries.

When Seymore and two other friends arrived at the hospital later that morning, they were told there was no hope. Gumb was kept alive on machines until his parents ar-



Hit-and-run victim Barry Gumb

rived at his bedside that night. They wished him goodnight and goodbye. At 9 p.m., Gumb officially became the 22nd pedestrian killed on San Francisco streets this year.

Last Friday, a memorial service was held for Gumb in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was raised and his family still lives. A second public memorial will be held for him today (Thursday, September 7), at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral Church at 3:30 p.m. Gumb was a member of the Grace Cathedral congregation and

attended the noon Holy Eucharist service there almost daily.

A makeshift memorial was put in place across from the scene of the accident, next to the Metro Bar and Restaurant where 16th, Noe, and Market streets intersect. Gumb's picture was sealed in a Ziplock bag and taped to a light pole. An outline of a body was drawn on the street. It read: "8-28-00. Man 31. Killed here in traffic. Drunk Driver. Hit & Run."

Police said that the hit-and-run driver, Jaswinder Singh, was drunk and ran away after the accident, leaving behind his female passenger. The San Bruno resident was found four hours later hiding in the light well at the home of his passenger in the Sunset District. Singh had a prior misdemeanor DUI conviction in 1994, according to police.

Police said that Gumb crossed against the light and was running across Market Street when he was hit.

"I think he just misjudged it," SFPD Inspector Jim Ramsey told the B.A.R. "He thought he could make it. He got about two-thirds of the way across when he was hit."

Singh was released on \$25,500 bail on Monday, August 28, the page 18 ►

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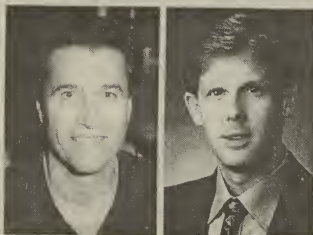
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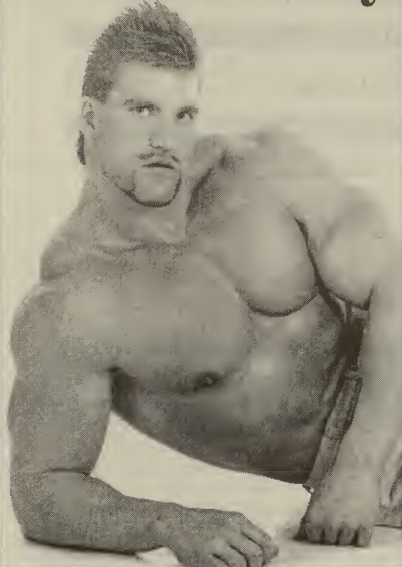
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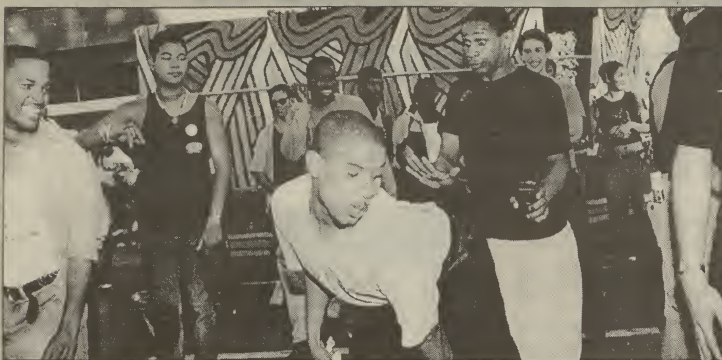
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Fun in the sun at Gay Mardi Gras



Jane Pilonen Cleland

These guys had a blast at the fourth annual Gay Mardi Gras in Oakland last Sunday, September 3. Warm weather brought out thousands of partygoers to the East Bay's Pride event, held downtown at Preservation Park.

Gay lawsuit challenges state Family Code

by Katie Szymanski

Although California has now officially declared marriage as valid "only between a man and a woman," San Francisco attorney Waukeen McCoy is predicting that gay and lesbian couples will think twice about dismissing their relationships once he's done with the legal system.

What may have been just a typical gay drama at love's end has been transformed into a potentially landmark case challenging the state's definition of marriage. *Williams v. O'Mara*, filed last month in Alameda County Superior Court, details the lives of a

gay couple as they moved from home to home together, sharing expenses and agreeing upon financial arrangements.

According to the suit, Samuel Williams and Wendell O'Mara met in 1989. After two years, they decided to move in together, get "married," and spend the rest of their lives together. They pooled their incomes and reportedly agreed that O'Mara would act as the primary breadwinner while Williams would keep house. Williams had recently been laid off, according to the suit, and O'Mara promised he would support him for the rest of their lives. They bought houses together, immedi-

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Attorney Waukeen McCoy

Rick Gerhart

Name that community center

by Terry Beswick

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project has announced that it is soliciting sug-

gestions of "a community hero/heroine, leader, or mentor" for whom the \$14.5 million facility for LGBT San Franciscans, now scheduled to open in summer 2001, "might be named."

But act now, or you'll miss your chance for your all-time favorite queer to be considered.

Submissions must be postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed by tomorrow (Friday, September 8) in order for the nomination to be accepted. Individuals or organizations may submit multiple nominations separately.

The CCP board of directors reports they will also be using the nominations to name rooms, public spaces, and meeting areas in the 41,000 square foot facility currently under construction at the corner of Market and Octavia streets.

The facility has been planned to provide core programming to support individuals and will also house nonprofit organizations that serve the greater Bay Area's LGBT community. The stated mission of the center is "to provide a welcoming space for all, to improve the health and well-being of LGBT people and to advance the community's political, cultural, social, and economic development."

In an August 31 statement, the nonprofit organization said that it will convene "a panel of community representatives, with the goal of selecting a pool of names that represent the rich diversity of San

Francisco's LGBT youth and adults."

Submissions should include the suggested name, and your contact information, including name, address, city, state, zip, phone, and e-mail address.

The CCP also asks that nominators indicate whether they would be available for follow-up questions regarding the nomination, and provide, in writing, a brief explanation to "aid in assessing why this person or group would be an important name to see within the center."

Submissions may be sent by mail to the CCP, 1748 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94102; by fax to (415) 437-2259; or by e-mail to CCMari@aol.com.

Board meeting this month

In other news, the CCP board of directors has announced that its semi-annual public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. at the project's offices on the second floor at 1748 Market Street, at Valencia Street.

According to a September 1 announcement, "the meeting will consist of an update on the progress of the construction and development of the center, and in accordance with the Sunshine Ordinance, discussion of board vacancies, public comment, and nominations."

For more information, call the center office at (415) 437-2257. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lesbian kills TG bill; handful of gay bills pass CA Legislature

by Katie Szymanski

California's legislative session wrapped up with some victories as well as some disappointments for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, with the passing of a handful of significant statewide gains and the defeat of an important bill that would have prohibited discrimination in employment and housing against transgenders. What's most disturbing, according to an e-mail exchange between Assemblyman Fred Keeley's office and several LGBT advocates, is that the transgender non-discrimination bill, AB2142, appears to have been recommended for veto by Governor Gray Davis's secretary of the Cabinet, Susan Kennedy, a lesbian.

AB2142, by Keeley (D-Santa Cruz), never had an easy time. The bill passed the Assembly but was defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee because it needed a fifth vote. According to Kee-

Equality reported that the following CAPE-supported bills have successfully passed the Legislature:

- AB1785, by Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Mt. Washington), requires public schools to include the reporting of hate-motivated incidents and hate crimes on the standard crime reporting form. The bill also revises the state curriculum to include human relations education.

- AB 1851, by Assemblyman John Longville (D-Rialto), is the infamous tranny bill that failed in committee but eventually passed both houses. The bill, largely noncontroversial, simply changes administrative policy so that post-operative transsexuals who are new state residents, and those who were born here but have since moved out of the state, can obtain new legal identification. New birth certificates for transsexuals are currently readily available to those born and still living here; AB1851 simply establishes procedures for those left

the prohibited bases in discriminatory employment practices.

There were also, of course, some very bad bills defeated this legislative session. One such bill, thanks to the righteous creativity of Senators Dick Monteith (R-Modesto) and Richard Mountjoy (R-Monrovia), would have required the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special license plates depicting the Boy Scouts and proclaiming, "Scouting teaches values." Another defeated bill, by Assemblyman George House (R-Hughson), would have granted every parent the fundamental right to control care and custody of their children. This bill would have affected LGBT custody cases as well as allowed little Johnny to be exempt from anti-hate messages at school if his parents wished.

Overall, the legislative session proved fruitful, now that the LGBT communities have accepted the fact that progress will come incrementally. LGBT advocates are still holding their collective breath until Davis signs or vetoes the bills; he has a month to decide. Most advocates expressed optimism that at least a few new pro-gay laws will soon be on the books. ▼

"Before Assemblymember Keeley could get the vote set," the e-mail said, "Ann called and said things had changed and that Cabinet Secretary Susan Kennedy was recommending a veto."

ley's office, that fifth vote was eventually secured. Keeley's office was confident it could get the bill out of the Senate as long as it was not considered "veto bait" by the governor's office, and according to the e-mail circulated by Keeley's office, "Ann Richardson in the governor's office assured us that this was not the case, and that she was recommending the governor support the bill."

"Before Assemblymember Keeley could get the vote set," the e-mail continued, "Ann called and said things had changed and that Cabinet Secretary Susan Kennedy was recommending a veto."

Not surprisingly, attempts by the *Bay Area Reporter* to secure a comment from Kennedy were unsuccessful.

Roger Salazar in the governor's office told the *B.A.R.* that Davis's staff members "generally don't comment on legislation" before it reaches Davis's desk.

AB2142 is on "pause" until next session, and Boyce Hinman of the Lambda Letters Project noted that it made remarkable progress for such a short period of time.

"A total of 46 state legislators voted for the bill. The bill also drew support from over 26 religious bodies, labor unions, and lobbying organizations representing people of color," said Hinman. "It took almost 18 years to pass AB1001, the bill that bans sexual orientation discrimination in California."

Other bills favoring the LGBT community did make it to the governor's desk, however. California Alliance for Pride and

out of the process.

- AB1856, by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), expressly provides that under the Fair Employment and Housing Act, employees may be held civilly liable for harassment of other employees based on race, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation.

- AB1931, by Assemblyman Jack Scott (D-Altaadena), establishes and funds hate violence programs and trainings in public schools.

- AB2421, by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), cleans up the language in the previous domestic partner bill to clarify that only one member of an opposite sex couple must be over the age of 62 to register.

- SB1149, by Senator Tom Hayden (D-Los Angeles), extends the Family Rights Act to allow any employee working for a company with more than 50 employees to take family and medical leave to care for an ill adult child, grandparent, sibling, or registered domestic partner. A similar bill was vetoed by Davis in May of this year for including non-family members.

- SB1410, by Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough), allows San Mateo County to extend death and survivor's benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.

- SB2025, by Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), extends FEHA definitions into the Civil Service Act, thereby including sexual orientation as one of

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A foot in the Bush

Traditionally, the fall presidential campaign begins with Labor Day, this country's salute to working men and women. One incident that occurred in Illinois involving Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush and his running mate Dick Cheney shows once again why this pair of wealthy Texas oilmen is not ready to run the country.

Before beginning a speech in Naperville, Illinois, Bush spotted veteran *New York Times* reporter Adam Clymer in the crowd; Clymer was on assignment for the paper, working on Labor Day. "There's Adam Clymer. Major league asshole from the *New York Times*," Bush said to Cheney. "Oh, yes. Big time," Cheney replied. The problem for Bush, however, was that his so-called whispered aside to his running mate was broadcast on an open microphone. While Bush has promised to be "plain-spoken," he carried that too far with his disparaging comment.

The most telling thing from this overheard exchange, however, is how Bush reacted once he became aware that virtually every media outlet had picked up on his vulgar comment. Did he apologize? No. Rather, he said, "I regret that a private comment I made to the vice presidential candidate made it to the public airwaves." In other words, he apologized that his comments were overheard by others, but he failed to apologize for those comments, or to Clymer for that matter.

And, as bad as Bush looked, Cheney sucking up like a "yes man" came off worse with his blind agreement to Bush's comment. Oh yeah, Bush and Cheney are supposed to be taking the high road; they talk constantly about restoring "honor and dignity" to the White House. Well, when push comes to shove and they're a little behind in the polls, look what happens, we get treated to whispered asides and negative attack ads.

For its part, the *New York Times* editors were baffled. The newspaper has never heard from the Bush campaign regarding Clymer.

We're happy that voters, thanks to the media, heard Bush's comment, for it shows that neither he nor Cheney are the "compassionate" conservatives they claim to be, rather, that they are mean-spirited. All of the photo ops of Bush with babies, small children, and others will not convince us that this former baseball team owner is

ready to run the country. Is Bush in the habit of using such vulgarities to describe members of the press? What will he say about foreign leaders or elected officials in this country? Don't forget, he didn't even know the names of several foreign leaders when quizzed by a television reporter some months ago.

When someone rises in American politics to the level of running for president, it usually demonstrates leadership and the ability to communicate with all groups of people. Obviously, reporters are looking deep into how Texas is functioning as a state since Bush is the governor there; and the scrutiny is fair game. After all, Texas' problems and how they are solved or not solved offers an important window into how Bush governs. For example, we know that Texas executes more prisoners than any other state. And we know that last week, a judge ruled that Texas had failed to abide by a 1996 consent decree to provide appropriate health care for more than 1.5 million Texas children who were eligible for Medicaid. Cheney's record of helping children isn't much better, since he voted against the successful Head Start program when he was in Con-

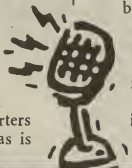
gress.

And that's what Clymer has been doing: writing stories about how things are going in Texas; it doesn't look pretty, and Bush probably wishes he and the other reporters would just go away.

So, Bush and his administration have broken a promise to help children in Texas; yet on the campaign trail, Bush puts education and children first. If he can't do it at home, how can he do it if he's elected president?

Finally, to further insult the American people, Bush is trying to weasel out of the three debates organized by the Commission on Presidential Debates. Bush wants two hand-picked moderators — Tim Russert of NBC and

CNN's Larry King — to televise debates that would be seen by far fewer people. It shows us that Bush is not looking forward to debating Al Gore, and that, too, says something about Bush. While Gore is currently ahead in the polls, many Americans have said that they won't make up their minds until after the debates. In what promises to be a close race, the three presidential commission debates are necessary; after those are agreed upon, the candidates can debate in other settings as much as they want. ▼



Editorial



Pentagon reforms won't work

by Aaron Belkin

After a panel appointed by Secretary of Defense William Cohen outlined its strategy for curtailing anti-gay harassment, observers expressed optimism that the Pentagon will be able to curb abuses that gay men and lesbians encounter during their military service. While the panel's recommendations signal official concern for the problem, the proposed reforms will not work. Violence against gay men and lesbians will continue as long as homosexuality remains grounds for expulsion from the armed forces.

According to the policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the military can fire homosexuals if it discovers their identity. The proposed reforms will not work because they cannot prevent attackers from threatening to accuse victims of homosexuality if they report assaults. A 1996 University of Chicago study says that threatening to label a female victim of abuse as a lesbian is the most prevalent form of sexual harassment in the armed forces.

The crux of the proposed reforms is that officers who receive complaints about abuse must not ask victims about sexual orientation. What the reforms fail to acknowledge is that military doctors, psychologists, inspectors general, and law enforcement officials who turn in gay and lesbian soldiers seeking their help are only part of the reason why homosexual victims cannot report

abuse safely. The possibility that their attackers will accuse them of homosexuality is an equally powerful deterrent to reporting harassment.

Gay men and lesbians are vulnerable to their attackers' accusation because gossip and hearsay are perfectly legal and commonly used justifications for discharge. To make matters worse, gestures and body language can count as an admission of homosexuality according to official military policy. Incredibly, military courts regard these ill-defined gestures as "statements" that in turn create a legal presumption that the soldier engages in gay sex. In other words, military laws and regulations allow false rumors of ambiguous body language to constitute legal proof of homosexuality. It should come as no surprise that when victims contemplate whether or not to report harassment, they must consider the very real possibility that their attackers will spread rumors that they are homosexual.

Official guidelines offer no protection against this possibility. According to official Air Force policy, for example, a report of harassment cannot form the basis of an inquiry into the victim's sexual orientation. However, if evidence of the victim's sexuality comes to light during an examination of alleged harassment, a commander may launch a new investigation that targets the victim's sexual orientation. Since gossip

counts as evidence of homosexuality, it is easy for accused attackers to spread rumors that end his victim's military career.

In Canada, the 1992 decision to allow gays and lesbians to serve in the military effectively eliminated anti-gay harassment. After the military lifted its ban, violence against homosexuals disappeared and over the next three years, none of the 905 assaults in the Canadian Forces involved gay bashing or could be attributed to the sexual orientation of the victim. Since Israel lifted its gay ban in 1993 there have been no cases of violence against gay and lesbian soldiers.

As was the case in Canada and Israel, the elimination of the gay ban is the key to curtailing abuse of gay men and lesbians in the U.S. military. Pentagon leaders should be commended for beginning to take the problem of anti-gay harassment seriously. But partial solutions will not make a serious dent in the problem as long as perpetrators believe that victims will not report them. While partial reforms may be symbolically important, the violence will continue as long as homosexuality remains grounds for military discharge. ▼

Aaron Belkin is director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Use a condom – every time

Let me begin by saying that the decision to write this letter was a very difficult one. The opinions I am about to express will no doubt be very unpopular. Should they be printed, I will probably suffer, at the very least, a nasty backlash, and may in fact lose a few friends. But I read your lengthy article "Barebacking, top to bottom", especially part 2 regarding "harm reduction", and I was very moved to respond.

I understand and appreciate that the overall point of the article was that the current safer sex message promulgated by the AIDS education establishments, isn't reaching everyone. There are fears that HIV transmission rates are on the rise again, and barebacking is a reality in our community, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. It seems to have become very un-"pc" of late to even use the phrase, "a condom every time." But I think the AIDS education infrastructure that our community has built over the past two decades and the many, many individuals who have labored so hard and so long to get that message out, underestimate the vast amount of good that it has done. I would submit that the reason I, and many others like me, am alive and healthy today, is due to the phrase "Use a condom every time."

I am lucky in a way. I was 17 years old in 1986 when I first started becoming sexually active. At that point, AIDS was already a dire reality for all gay men. The epidemic had taken a ravishing toll on this community and we had responded quickly and decisively with a clear and absolute strategy to survival. "Use a condom – every time you have sex." I am not interested in debating the politics of the message, its origin, and whether or not it was oppressive. The simple facts are, we as a community were under siege, and here was a solution that worked. It was impossible as a teen growing up in the 1980s, not to have that message drilled into your head. More importantly, it was impossible for me to approach my first sexual experience with a man without considering that advice. I made a decision early on, before I was even having anal intercourse, that when I did choose to experience that, I would use a condom. It was very difficult at the age of 17, when approached by older, more experienced men who encouraged me to engage in unprotected sex, to hold to that decision. One of the major factors that allowed me to do so, was the clear, consistent and authoritative voice of the AIDS education establishment.

It is 14 years later, and much has changed. We as a community have matured. We understand a lot more about HIV. There are treatments. People are living longer, healthier lives. This disease is no longer decimating the gay community. During the course of those years, I have had anal intercourse, both as a top and a bottom, with more men than it is probably appropriate to mention in polite conversation. I have never, however, had unprotected anal intercourse. Lately, I find myself almost apologetic about this fact. I find it is so frequently met with distrust, disdain, and occasionally outrage that I rarely share this fact about myself with people in San Francisco. However, such was the power of that simple message of my youth "Use a condom – every time."

Now I am confronted with increasing signs of a new message being embraced by our community. I'm not even sure this new message has really been captured in a catch phrase yet. "Unprotected sex may be okay sometimes, if you're a negative top, or positive bottom, and you or your partner discuss your status, and douche before hand or maybe after, but only with certain liquids, and you do it Kansas, and you don't use poppers, or other drugs, and you pull out, and get tested, and your partner doesn't have any STDs, and his viral load is low enough, or maybe not, and you get lucky. Of course, there's not really any clinical proof of any of this, so maybe you should consider using a condom." As unpopular as it may be to point out, I somehow doubt that this message is going to leave the same lasting impression on the youth of today.

I appreciate that the point of this new message is to fix some problems with the old one. The previous message is becoming worn out, and it simply isn't reaching everyone. But I fear that this attempt to "fix" the education our youth receives will undermine it entirely. There is, and should be, some room for absolutes when we are dealing with the health and well being of our gay youth. Unpopular or not, the fact remains, that using a condom every time largely prevents HIV transmission. How can we as community stop relating this message to our youth and instead offer untested, unsubstantiated "harm reduction" techniques? I can't help feeling that teaching harm reduction is a little like teaching a Russian roulette addict the proper way to hold the pistol, so that when it eventually goes off he'll only be seriously maimed, not killed.

I am not an expert on HIV transmissions. I have never been an AIDS educator nor received training in the complex fields of disease management or public health. I write this letter only in the hopes that it may spark some more conversations within our community about what messages we want to present to our youth about HIV prevention.

Noel Casale
San Francisco

No TG issues addressed

Last Tuesday night I attended the political debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters for the five candidates running for the Board of Supervisors from District 8. District 8 includes Noe Valley, Glen Park, Duboce Triangle, and the Castro. It was my assumption, after doing significant demographic research, the organizers would be selecting questions from the audience which represented the most important issues impacting the lives of those living in the district. Apparently, that was not the case. At least three separate questions addressing transgender discrimination and civil rights were submitted to the panelists and not one was chosen as worthy enough to ask.

Questions addressing the current crisis facing the transgender community may not have been as significant to the organizers as the "dog poop problem in Dolores Park" but to the hundreds, if not thousands, of transgender individuals living in District 8 these are serious – deadly serious – issues. So, since the LWV chose not to present our questions to the panelists, I will do so in this public forum. I ask all the candidates running for Supervisor in District 8 the following: "Given the current state of crisis, what would you do to stem the rising tide of violence, police brutality and discrimination in employment, medical services, housing, public accommodations, and education against the transgender community in District 8 and elsewhere in the city and county of San Francisco?"

Theresa Sparks
San Francisco

Concern over MCC coverage

It is with a major amount of concern, tinged with sadness that I find myself having to respond to the B.A.R.'s recent coverage concerning the unfortunate death of Curtis Oliver Jr., a former client of "Matt's Place," as well as some of the comments expressed in the letter "Keep it quiet" in the August 31 issue.

When the shelter was operating out of Golden Gate MCC, I was one of many volunteers who worked to provide all of the clients with help, referrals, for jobs and or drug treatment, assistance in meeting their basic human needs, both physical, social, psychological, and on some occasions spiritual. I had numerous occasions over an extended period of time to get to know Curtis, to talk with him about his life, goals, dreams, plans for the future, etc. In short I was granted the privilege of learning about and knowing a young man who was, loving, opinionated, funny, talented, and who had a very strong desire to better his situation and from what I could see, despite his "problems" with drugs was working very hard to change.

The B.A.R.'s subsequent coverage surrounding the circumstances of his death, the ways (rightly or wrongly) in which the situation was handled seems to smack of "sensationalism" at its best and an out and out attack on MCC-SF and Ms. Walling at its worst as well as what was trying to be accomplished by this desperately needed project, that being providing help to "our community's" troubled youth. Something which to date I might add is still needed.

Yes, perhaps there should have been training in CPR for the staff of the shelter, perhaps the sirens should have been used, the alternative of Curtis dying with the probable chance of any help coming far too late in my mind would have been far greater had he been on the streets then in a place where there was every possible attempt made to provide a place of safety, comfort, and the amount of "dignity" that every human being is entitled to – homeless or not.

And as for "keeping it quiet," MCC has done and will continue to work toward doing more for the homeless youth of our community. I wonder if the writer of that letter can say that he has done the same?

C.J. Peoples
San Francisco

Check charity backgrounds

Before we rush into final approval of a Market Street shelter as Mark Leno and Leslie Katz would have us do, let's ask ourselves just how competent the Ark of Refuge is to operate such a facility. We have seen ghastly incompetence on the part of the MCC shelter in the case of Curtis Oliver Jr. where a 911 call for an ambulance was qualified by "Please, no lights." There followed an almost unbelievable haste to cloak the young man's death in silence. Was this MCC shelter little more than a "shooting gallery?" Was this hard core addict "mentoring" the truly young in that shelter? Given this sorry record together with the venality of Catholic Charities in providing fancy meals and cosmetic surgery for its chief, let's take a careful look at all these charities that use religious names as an open sesame to public funds.

Kenneth J. Miller
San Francisco



Mailstrom

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There was a flier

I wish the B.A.R. would check its facts before it publishes stories. Your August 31 article states that MCC-SF "unexpectedly announced" that it would be closing its youth shelter, Matt's Place, and hints that the closure was due to sinister causes.

Four months ago, MCC-SF passed out hundreds and hundreds of yellow fliers asking for donations for Matt's Place. I have one in front of me right now, and I see the following words: "A Summer Shelter, \$21,000 [needed] for three months," and a checkbox where donors could make monthly gifts for "June, July, and August."

Why does your newspaper continue to dig for scandals where none exist? In next week's B.A.R. I suppose we'll see front-page headlines that Matt's Place soiled the carpet in our chapel.

Daniel Leifker
Treasurer, MCC-SF
San Francisco

GOP wants control of our bodies

This letter is written in reaction to Dale Carpenter's most recent reduction of the Democrats ["The per-festory party," *OutRight*, August 24]. Dale seems very upset with the lack of sufficient use of the word "gay" in the platform of the Democrats, and warns us of their insincerity. I disagree. What is important is for all of us to truly understand what is at risk this November.

The platforms of the two major parties exhibit two radically different philosophies of governing. The Republicans want to rid the books of regulations impacting corporations and trust them to do the right thing. On the other hand, they will endeavor to regulate our bodies. The Democrats seem to trust us to make decisions about our own bodies, but will try to temper the blind chase for profits with laws protecting the environment and the consumer.

Hmmmm, to quote Dale, "Let's see." As an example, Mr. Bush wants to release federal lands to the oil companies, and make compliance to environmental regulations voluntary. Why does Mr. Carpenter not want us to ask about the Kyoto Protocols? The international treaty seeking to curb greenhouse gases is supported by the current administration, yet has not been ratified by the Senate. Gee, I wonder where the Republicans stand on that one?

That's scary enough, but it's what the Republicans do want to regulate that is truly frightening. Whether it's banning abortion or denouncing homosexuality, the message is the same: they demand control of our bodies. Behind the guise of their precious, so-called moral superiority is the ultimate Machiavellian scheme: take away control of our bodies and you render us powerless on all other fronts.

Let there be no doubt about what's at stake in November. It will impact all of us more than we realize.

Robert Pennypacker
San Francisco

Ex-Gold's member weighs in

I am writing in response to and support of Richard Cornwall's letter regarding Gold's Gym in the Castro [*Mailstrom*, August 24].

I terminated my membership with Gold's Gym because I was increasingly uncomfortable with the direction of the new management that took over the old Market Street Gym.

The old Market Street Gym was physically run down but it had an edge to it that was in synch with being a "gay gym" in the "gay" Castro. It was certainly gay friendly and tended to reflect the sensibilities of the Castro. It seemed to me that the new management wants to clean up the gym and make it more "respectable" and more conforming to a "straight" gym for "straight-acting" homosexuals. What's being suppressed at Gold's is a natural and good homoeroticism. This is what was off-putting and hypocritical to me.

Whereas at the Market Street Gym I used to feel free to dress in a way that celebrated homoeroticism, I no longer felt free to do so. I felt self-conscious about my gym attire, wondering if the staff was going to "suggest" I cover myself up. There was a sense of déjà vu for me: it reminded me of the straight gym I once belonged to in West Hartford, Connecticut, where lots of gay men went but the prevailing atmosphere was strongly heterosexual. At that gym, staff monitored the shower room to make sure that the men behaved themselves. I saw the exact same thing happen at Gold's, that is, the staff wandering through the shower room to make sure that we were appropriate.

I don't like feeling as if I am being policed and that my innocent, playful, and natural homoeroticism is viewed by the management as lewd behavior. I am not arguing that a gym should be a sex club, rather that there is nothing wrong, shameful, or inappropriate for gay men to overtly enjoy the obvious homoerotic charge of the gym environment.

What bothers me the most about all of this is not Gold's behavior but the suspicion that it unfortunately reflects the growing de-sexing of the Castro.

Baruch Gould
San Francisco

Eros is right down the street

In regards to the letter about the Gold's Gym takeover [*Mailstrom*, August 24], as a four-year member of the gym I would like to clarify a few issues for those not familiar with the situation.

1. Prior to the Gold's Gym ownership the building was in great disrepair and the toilets, showers, and machines were often broken. Since the new owners took over, huge renovations have taken place, at, I assume, a great expense.

2. From what I understand, those who are griping (a few vocal people) are those who were told to stop masturbating in the open shower areas due to client complaints. I would not shower in the gym because of these same rude people. They have no respect for others.

3. As far as asking people if they are straight or gay when they are hired, I find that to be everything we as a community abhor and don't mind if the staff's orientation is not made public. Finally, in regards to the dress police at the gym, once again the only issue as far as I know from speaking to the owner, is gay clientele complaints against one man in see-through underwear who made people uncomfortable working out, particularly lesbians and women.

I also understand that anyone who is not happy has been offered their money back, and let's face it, Eros is right down the street!

Frank Sieple
San Francisco

Screw you, Haight NIMBYS

As a former Haight resident who was a part of both the neighborhood and Radical Faeries communities, I would like to respond to Arthur Evans's letter of August 31. First let me preface with a great big, "screw you pig." As a longtime resident of the Haight, I vehemently opposed Mr. Evans's and other reactionary groups like RAD for their not-in-my-backyard policies designed to rid the Haight of social service organizations and anything else that might remotely appeal to homeless people living in the Haight.

The Haight suffers from a plague I believe that stems from rampant heroin addiction. The approach of neighborhood groups like RAD rather than help anyone pushes addicts into neighboring areas, which sounds like Mr. Evans's greatest fear coming true. RAD and other like neighborhood associations are full of mean-spirited hateful people who are like minded and encourage one another in their hatred. The Haight is definitely in need of some social help but not their misintentioned kind.

Matapalo Castano
San Francisco

It takes two

Azriel Hayes's letter of August 16 describes his HIV infection by a "smooth operator" and finishes by wishing he'd been warned. This tells us two things.

First, it says that prevention messages – the ones we've been soaking in for almost 20 years – haven't reached everyone.

And second, it says that some guys, like Azriel Hayes and apparently Richard Wahl and his friend, won't ever really "get" those messages, no matter how they're delivered. It's easier for them to blame others for their own carelessness, to cling to the self-centered idea that they're totally innocent because the other guy was so seductive, and then, most ludicrously, to whine that they weren't warned.

As others have pointed out, it takes two. It helps if one's a moron.

Randy Wellington
San Francisco

Tolerance program for teens funded

Thank you for the recent article highlighting Assemblywoman Carole Migden's hard work to include funding for the important work of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California in the new California budget.

I wanted your readers to know that Assemblywoman Migden and state Senator John Burton were also responsible for including the New Conservatory Theatre Center's premiere Safe Schools Program 2000 – "The Other Side of the Closet, A Tolerance Education Program for Teens" in the state budget with funding support in the amount of \$50,000.

Their foresight, courage, and commitment will enable us to begin the inaugural tour of Northern California this fall with an educational program targeting homophobia and violence among young people. "The Other Side of the Closet" by Ed Roy is the first program of its kind in the nation and is being readied for replication across the country in an effort to stem the rise of hate crimes.

"The Other Side of the Closet" is also sponsored by other trailblazers in our community that include: the Gill Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, R. Gwin Follis Foundation, the Louis R. Lurie Foundation, Fireman's Fund Foundation, California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, LYRIC, PFLAG, GLSEN, Spectrum Services, and the Evelyn and Walter Haas Junior Fund.

Ed Decker, Artistic Director
New Conservatory Theatre Center

POLITICS

George W. Bush trails in polls, goes on attack

by Wayne Friday

One day after he was telling a Louisville, Kentucky, audience that American politics "doesn't have to and should not be mean and ugly," Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, who had been publicly saying that "voters are tired of negative campaigns" last week suddenly changed gears and authorized a negative attack ad against Vice President **Al Gore** that's running on television in 17 states.

Bush, who has watched his onetime lead in the national polls evaporate following the Democratic convention, now appears concerned at what seems to be a surge in Gore's support. After violating his own often-repeated vow to keep his campaign positive, he personally approved the attack ad aimed at Gore's character, mocking an appearance by the vice president at the now-infamous 1996 fund raising event at Southern California Buddhist temple, and chiding Gore for claiming to have invented the Internet.

Clearly concerned about his continual slip in polls, Bush, by going negative so early in this campaign, signals not only the obvious nervousness in the Bush camp, but his approval of this latest ad days after canceling another negative ad aimed at Gore exposes a rift within the Republican camp that seems to be widening as Bush's poll numbers go down. The *Houston Chronicle*, a supporter of the Texas governor in past campaigns, suggested this week that the Bush camp's decision to go negative indicates that the confidence of Bush and his top advisers has been shaken by the reversal in polls.

Nearly all of the leading national polls show the presidential race in a statistical dead heat, although the respected *Newsweek* poll, one that had Bush in the lead for months - this week has Gore leading the Texas Governor 49 percent to 39 percent with Green Party nominee **Ralph Nader** at 3 percent and the Reform Party's **Pat Buchanan** at 1 percent.

National reporters reminded Bush this week that after months of condemning negative campaigns and calling for "positive campaigns" most of the summer, it was Bush himself who had suddenly changed his mind and took to the television airwaves in a personal attack ad on the vice president. Bush brushed aside reporters' criticism by labeling the anti-Gore ad as being only "humorous" adding that it was in fact meant to be only "tongue in cheek." Indeed, while Bush has heretofore based his campaign in part on presenting himself as a sunny, optimistic politician who wants to return "civility to the political discourse" of Washington, the GOP nominee was quickly finding himself the subject of criticism, some from members of the national press who had previously reported his "new look at positive politics" as being somewhat refreshing.

The Gore campaign, quick to react to the first television attack

ad of the campaign, predicted that the ad would likely backfire on Bush, particularly since the ad appears to be based on personal attacks and not on policy differences. One top Gore aide said that "Governor Bush is obviously talking out of both sides of his mouth and has now lost all credibility about running his promised positive campaign." Bush himself seemed a little ill at ease discussing the ad with reporters; after being repeatedly questioned why he suddenly went negative, Bush again nervously suggested that he found the ad "humorous," but quickly asked: "Any questions on any other subject?" Bush campaign operatives also

seemed annoyed at some of the television news show talking heads, many of whom had previously praised the "sunny, positive" Bush of the past, for pointing out during Sunday's television shows that it was

Bush, after watching the reversal in polls, who decided to go negative first.

Meanwhile, the officials at the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates this week turned down Bush's attempt to revise the locations and schedules for three October presidential debates that the Bush campaign had tried to modify.

With the Labor Day weekend the official start of the presidential campaign, Gore spent the holiday weekend crisscrossing the country on a tour that took him to eight states, while Bush spent the same time campaigning in midwestern swing states with his veep nominee, **Richard Cheney**.

Cheney, incidentally, has been taking some criticism from GOP national strategists who say privately that he is a lackluster campaigner on the stump. One network anchor this week pointed out the difference in style between the veep candidates by saying that Democrat **Joe Lieberman** clearly enjoys campaigning and comes off as a "Jewish **Hubert Humphrey** who voters like personally and warm up to easily while Cheney seems stiff and uncomfortable on the campaign trail" adding that "the guy reminds me of a regal **Henry Cabot Lodge**" (**Richard Nixon's** staid 1960 running mate who everyone loved to hate).

The presidential race, eight weeks before the election, is still thought to be up for grabs, but there were clearly signs of concern in the Bush camp this week as Gore continues to lead in most polls, and the decision by Bush to go on the attack shows concern in the Bush campaign. While the lead could change back and forth before November 7, the Gore campaign seemed to be hitting it right, at least for the time being.

Politics and people

A lesbian couple from Houston plan to legally marry in Texas next month, a prospect that has stymied the Texas Christian Coalition and its social conservative allies. The two women, **Robin Wicks** and **Jessica Wicks**, plan to go to San Antonio where their attorney says the county clerk has promised the two women a mar-

riage license. It would be the state's first recognition of a lesbian marriage and it is made legal because one of the women is transgender. In a gender case last year, the 4th Court of Appeals in San Antonio ruled in a wrongful death medical malpractice suit filed by a widow, **Christie Littleton**, who had had a sex-change operation. That court ruling blocked the suit by negating the widow's seven-year marriage to the deceased man. The court said sex is determined by chromosomes, not by gender reassignment surgery.

Gay and lesbian political activists around the country are sprouting campaign buttons that read: "It's the Supreme Court, Stupid!" reminding voters that the next president will possibly appoint as many as four new high court justices, and pointing out that the current court recently voted 5-4 to allow the Boy Scouts to discriminate against gay troop leaders. Bush has publicly said that conservative, anti-gay justices like **Antonin Scalia** and **Clarence Thomas** are his role models on the court, and he can be depended upon to appoint like-minded justices, if elected.

The recently completed session of the state Legislature showed the power that our local delegation of **John Burton**, **Carole Migden**, and **Kevin Shelley** carries. Meanwhile, the next mayoral race must be on the minds of some - my sources tell me that there were a couple of low-profile lunches this past weekend with political movers and shakers who are thinking ahead, and I know very well that Migden was at both of them. Hmmm.

When Supervisor **Leslie Katz**, herself a proven vote-getter, decided earlier this year not to run for the Board of Supes again there was some concern within the gay and lesbian community that they would lose a seat on the board. However, odds are now that the gay and lesbian community could end up with more than three supes after the fall election: **Tom Ammiano** is expected to win easily in District 9; **Mark Leno** is the early favorite to win in District 8; **Juanita Owens** has a better-than-even chance of taking a seat in District 5; **Lawrence Wong** is a strong contender in District 3; **Steven Currier** has a chance in District 11, and **Chris Dittenhafer** and **Hank Wilson** are strong candidates (Dittenhafer probably the early favorite) in District 6.

One of the more subtle issues of the current presidential campaign remains the **Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky** scandal and GOP veep nominee **Dick Cheney** manages to bring the issue up regularly. Since Bush tapped Cheney as his running mate, Cheney has sounded the character theme in nearly every state where he has appeared. Looming like a ghost at almost every Cheney campaign stop has been the memory of **Monica**. Cheney never mentions her name, nor for that matter, does he mention Clinton's, but when he continually urges voters, especially young voters, to value "self-restraint" and behave responsibly "even when no one is looking," Cheney's allusion to the president's affair with the former White House intern is clear. Ch-

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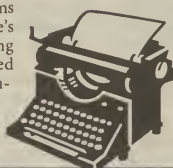
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Our Man Friday

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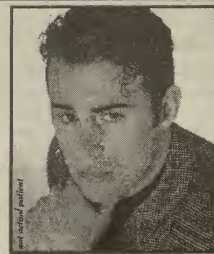
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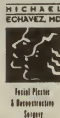
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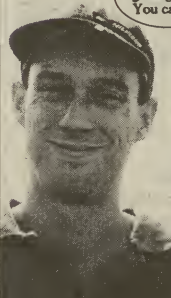
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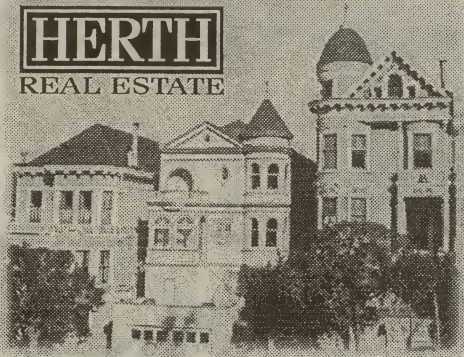
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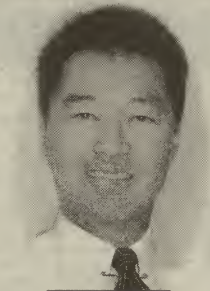
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Untruth in advertising

by Bob Findle, GLAAD
Publications Manager

In response to four California bills concerning education, the Campaign for California Families has taken out full-page ads in several newspapers, including the *Fresno Bee* and the *Contra Costa Times*, that direct people to contact their legislators and instruct them to vote against the bills. The ads are not fair discussions of the bills and are instead inflammatory rhetoric that distort the purpose of the bills, which are about protecting all students and making and keeping schools safe places. The CCF ads twist the legislation to be part of the "radical homosexual agenda" promoted by the "homosexual lobby." It also attempts to link California schools' real problems of low test scores and the inability of students to read and do math to pro-diversity legislation.

Assembly Bill 1785 reads "It should be the goal of the state to insure that students, teachers, administrators, and support staff appreciate and respect diversity, understand the roles and contributions of people of diverse groups, and are prepared to interact harmoniously, work productively, and thrive personally in a pluralistic society." CCF claims this is "teaching kids their parents are 'bigots,' simply because they disagree with gay and lesbian 'marriage'."

AB1931 includes sexual orientation as a group to be included in "fostering ethnic sensitivity, overcoming racism and prejudice, and countering hatred and intolerance." CCF's ads say this could cause schools to send children to gay and lesbian events.

AB2000 creates a 13-member Commission on Human Rights to advise the governor about diversity. CCF says this must be stopped so homosexuality is not "under the banner of 'tolerance.'"

SB1326 concerns itself with hate crimes on school grounds that are based on a list of categories, plus sexual orientation. CCF calls this promoting "homophobia" education to turn children against parents.

Encourage the newspapers to use better judgment when accepting advertisements in the future. While groups such as CCF have the right to make the public aware of its positions on legislation, the ads still need to be an honest framing of what the legislation is about and not blatant, alarmist distortions aimed at defaming a group of people.

The ads can be viewed at CCF's Web page of www.savecalifornia.com. The bills can be viewed

at California's Web page at www.leginfo.ca.gov/

Contact John Coakley, Director of Advertising, The Fresno Bee, 1626 E Street, Fresno, CA 93786; fax (559) 441-6458; e-mail: letters@fresnobee.com. George Riggs, Publisher, Contra Costa Times, 2640 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598; fax (925) 933-0239; no e-mail is available.

Columnist uses Boy Scouts issue to spread homophobia

The *Orlando Sentinel's* August 27 edition has one of the most blatant misrepresentations of gay men seen in recent months. In his column, "It's more apparent every day that nothing shocks folks anymore," Charley Reese

proves his own headline wrong by stringing together a litany of anti-gay comments that is shocking indeed in its defamation and in that the *Sentinel* printed it.

His topic is negative reactions to the Boy Scouts of America's continued ban on gay men and boys participating in the organization. He writes that this reaction is wrong and is a sure indication of the decline of civilization. According to Reese, to push for the BSA to end its discrimination is to "cave in to the sodomite lobby and its politically correct allies who apparently believe that everything must be tolerated except decency."

In addition to the pejorative word "sodomite" being used throughout the article, gay men are also linked to the National Man Boy Love Association, a group the overall gay community does not support or endorse in any way; pagans; Nazis; and the old standby - pedophiles. "Although not all pedophiles are homosexual, a great many pedophiles are homosexual, and the Scouts have a responsibility to protect their young members," he writes.

The facts are that the great majority of pedophiles are heterosexual men pursuing young girls. Most outrageous is when Reese uses necrophiles (people who like to have sex with dead bodies) seeking jobs at funeral homes as a comparison to gay men and boys wanting to participate in BSA activities. The link is odious and can only be categorized as despicable.

GLAAD does not often single out editorials and opinion pieces, but this example of defamation and vitriol cannot go without comment, especially because it has been picked up by King Features for syndication to multiple outlets.

Contact the *Orlando Sentinel* and King Features to express your concern about their lack of pru-

dence. While continued coverage about the BSA is welcomed and necessary, attack pieces like this do nothing to further the debate and only generate fear and hatred toward gay men.

The article can be viewed at http://orlandosentinel.com/archives/for_a_fee.

Contact Manning Pynn, Editorial Page Editor, The Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL, 32801; fax (407) 420-5286; e-mail: insight@orlandosentinel.com

Jay Kennedy, Editor in Chief, King Features, 235 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017, fax (212) 682-9763, e-mail: kfs-editorial-desk@hearst.com.

Also contact your local newspaper if the column has run.

Denver Post uncovers domestic violence

The *Denver Post* has been looking at family violence throughout the year. The August 20 edition tackles the tough topic of domestic violence within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. In a three-article package piece starting on the front page, staff writer Kevin Simpson reports on the issue from many angles and includes interviews with experts from around the nation.

What is revealed is how often domestic violence between same-sex couples goes unreported or misreported, even though it appears at the same frequency, about one in four, as between opposite-sex couples. Simpson details how same-sex couples must often face such things as homophobia at law enforcement and social agencies, and consider consequences of being identified as openly gay or lesbian. Simpson writes: "Violence tarnishes relationships of all types. But with gay and lesbian relationships, several factors - social, practical and political - conspired to stuff it into a closet within the closet." Because of these factors, most victims of same-sex domestic violence have little or no support services.

Simpson also covers how solving the issue is hampered not only by a lack of awareness by the overall population, but also by the LGBT community's desire to "not air its dirty laundry." Several experts offer explanations for this stance and also make suggestions on how to bring the issue to light so it can be solved.

While the articles have the potential to make some LGBT readers uncomfortable, by running them the *Post* is helping to start the dialogue toward obtaining equal rights and services for community members experiencing domestic violence. Simpson quotes Peter DiLeo, who works with gay male batterers as a counselor with Abusive Men Exploring

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Explaining Log Cabin's Bush endorsement

by Dale Carpenter

How could they? The Log Cabin Republicans' endorsement of George W. Bush has drawn criticism from Fire Island to the Castro. Gay political groups, notably the Human Rights Campaign, blasted LCR. The critics not only disagreed with the endorsement but seemed dumbfounded by it. Yet even if Al Gore is objectively the better choice for gays, the endorsement of Bush advances gay equality.

There are three possible explanations for the endorsement. The first is the ignorance theory: gay Republicans must be unaware of the candidates' differences. This theory reminds everyone that Bush supports anti-gay sodomy laws, opposes allowing openly gay people to serve in the military, and opposes gay adoptions. On each of these issues and others, Gore takes the better position.

So, in a press release, HRC instructed gay Republicans to compare the candidates' records. If gay Republicans would just familiarize themselves with the facts, the argument goes, they wouldn't support Bush.

The problem with the ignorance theory is that its assumption is wrong. Some gay Republicans are undoubtedly oblivious to the candidates' stands on gay issues. But that is certainly not true of the 100-plus activists from across the country who overwhelmingly backed the endorsement (the vote was 109-2).

It's safe to say no one knows better the GOP's anti-gay record than gay Republicans do. They know it because they work day-by-day within the party. And they know it because if a Republican so much as sneezes within the vicinity of a gay person, they hear about it from other gay groups. Whatever else they are, gay Republicans are not ignorant.

The second explanation of the endorsement is the selfishness theory: gay Republicans know Bush's record is worse but support him because they put their individual interests ahead of the interests of gays as a group. This theo-

ry holds that gay Republicans tend to be professional and wealthier than most people. By backing Bush, they support a candidate who will tax them less and will spend less on social welfare programs that don't directly benefit them. It's a charge any gay Republican has heard many times: you're willing to trade your civil rights for a tax cut.

The selfishness theory probably explains support for Bush among a few gay Republicans. Mark this irony, however. A similar theory explains the fervor of at least some gay Democrats for Gore. Their enthusiasm is a product of their other personal commitments (like support for abortion rights or affirmative

action) rather than their faith. Gore will actually accomplish something for gays.

But the selfishness theory can't explain the activism of most gay Republicans. If economic self-interest is gay Republicans' chief cause, LCR is an odd vehicle to promote it. There are plenty of conservative groups that far more directly and effectively press an economic agenda. LCR, as an organization, spends little time on tax cuts but lots of time on gay issues.

The third explanation is the strategic theory: gay Republicans know Bush's record is worse than Gore's, and aren't just acting on their selfish interests, but endorsed Bush because it helps the cause of gay equality more in the long run. Under this theory, backing Bush makes sense even if he's inferior on gay issues.

Such strategic behavior – sacrificing short-term principle to long-term interest – is common among gay political organizations. Consider HRC's own early endorsement of Gore over Bill Bradley, his Democratic primary opponent. Weighing just the issues, which is what critics of LCR's endorsement claim to do, Bradley was probably better than Gore. But HRC's early endorsement nevertheless made strategic sense because Bradley was a sure loser by that point and Gore would likely reward his early friends.

But how could endorsing an inferior candidate help us reach

equality? If gay Republican activism is good for anything, it's the assistance it gives the broader gay civil rights movement by working within the GOP for change. Gay Republicans cannot work within the party if they forever position themselves outside it. That means they must publicly reward Republican candidates who show tangible signs of progress.

There is justifiable skepticism in gay political circles about whether Bush's talk of tolerance is more cosmetic than substantive. But there is no doubt within the GOP, LCR's target audience, about the significance of Bush's moves toward gays. He not only met with gay Republicans, setting a precedent for GOP candidates around the country, but declined to meet some anti-gay preachers who subsequently demanded an audience with him. He made a modest attempt to strip anti-gay language from the party platform. And for the first time ever an openly gay person spoke to a Republican National Convention. It was enough to send some true-blue Republican delegates into paroxysms of prayer.

Snubbing Bush after he made those controversial positive moves would have been a strategic mistake. If LCR had refused to endorse Bush, many Republican stalwarts would have concluded that courting gays is a waste of time.

The alternative endorsement standard suggested by LCR's critics – that the group should not endorse unless the GOP candidate is as good as his opponent – is impractical. Under that approach, by the time LCR endorsed a Republican the goal (equality) would have been accomplished.

The fundamental challenge for every organization is to figure out how to achieve its ends. LCR wants both parties competing for gay votes, something they don't do now. Endorsing Bush helps us get from here to there. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.



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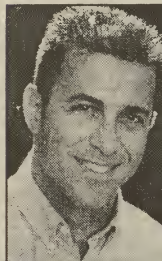
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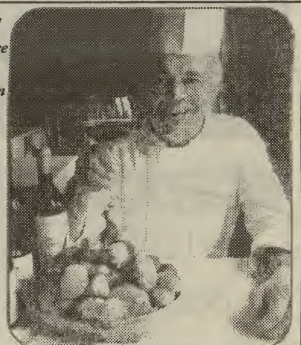
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Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

ney's roundabout method of drawing attention to Clinton's impeachment to tarnish Gore highlights a common technique of the modern campaign – attacking a rival without appearing to be attacking that rival. Typical of Cheney's approach is his habit of saying this election is in part about choosing a president who, among other things, will "set an example for our children" or his habit of calling character "the very essence of our great country." As one political scientist put it this week, Cheney's clever habit is "sort of like not mentioning the rope in the house of a hanged man; it's a real test of the ingenuity of the Bush-Cheney campaign to evoke the memory of the Lewinsky scandal without appearing to do so."

Whereas the Bush campaign

only a few weeks ago briefly considered mounting a real campaign in California, even they now see the state as "Gore country" and Karl Rove, Bush's top strategist, now admits California is no longer a priority. Indeed, Gore appears to have locked up California and a large part of that is because some of those more liberal Democrats, once seen as flirting with Green Party nominee Ralph Nader, now realize that a Nader vote constitutes a vote for Bush; Nader has dropped from 8 percent to around 4 percent in recent state polls.

Gay political activists in San Diego say they now expect county Supervisor Ron Roberts, a moderate Republican, to edge out the more conservative Judge Dick Murphy to become that city's mayor in the November election.

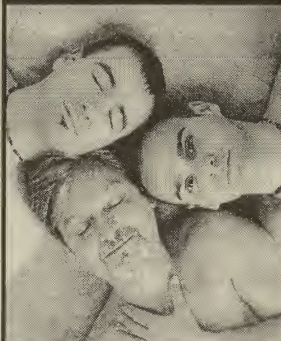
And one Assembly seat that nearly everyone feels the Democratic Party will pick up in November is the 16th District in Oakland

where former Green-turned-independent incumbent Audie Bock is likely to lose out to Democratic challenger Wilma Chan, an Alameda County supervisor; Bock's switch from Green to independent has apparently angered enough of her Green and liberal base that they will vote for Democrat Chan and she should win this one big.

Finally, there seems to be a lot of controversy over Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman's religious faith and his continual references to it. However, it might be pointed out that earlier in this campaign Bush was asked if he thought only Christians would go to heaven. Bush replied "yes," but later seemingly backed off when criticized for saying so. A reader reminds me that, according to most religious beliefs, only God decides who goes to heaven, not the governor of Texas.

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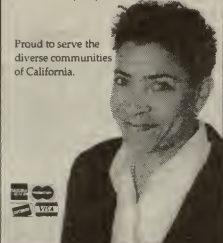
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Rocky high

by Jane Warner

1 7th and Church, August 31, 3:50 p.m.: A man walking down Church Street was approached by three teenagers who told him, "Give me your money." When the man replied that he had no money, one of the teens punched him in the face and asked him, "How does that feel?" The other boys tried to grab the man's backpack, but a passerby yelled that he was calling police. The suspects ran east on 17th. Responding officers took a description of the teens and contacted the principal at Mission High School, who was able to provide names of students who fit the description. The names were turned over to robbery inspectors for investigation.

Tipsy through the tulips

100 block of Ford, September 1, 10:15 a.m.: A woman called police to report a strange man sitting in her neighbor's garden. When officers arrived, they found the man intoxicated, laying in a rose bed, drinking a beer. Officers ordered him from the garden and the drunk staggered to the sidewalk. A computer check revealed the trespasser had three outstanding warrants. Booked for the warrants and being drunk in public was Eddie Rincon, 44.

Thug of war

18th and Castro, September 1, 9:20 a.m.: A man who was arrested last week for robbing a teenag-

er of his backpack near Collingwood Park was released on his own recognizance. Two days later, the man saw his teenage victim on the corner of 18th and Castro and challenged him to fight. Fearing for his safety, the teen boarded Muni. The suspect got on the same coach and harassed the teen until he got off at Civic Center. The suspect followed him into a downtown building and tried to pull the teenager into an elevator. Several

people intervened and escorted the man out of the building. The suspect is described as a white male, 19 years old, with bleached blond spiked hair.

Auto surveillance

300 block of Castro, September

1, 8:35 p.m.: While on routine patrol, a police officer noticed a man acting suspicious, looking inside the windows of a parked car. The officer pulled over and observed the man from a distance. After a few minutes, the man wrapped his hand in a towel and pounded the car's window until it shattered. The suspect took a large cardboard box from the vehicle and ran north on Castro to 16th. Several officers apprehended the suspect on the corner of 16th and Market and recovered the stolen goods. Inside the box were three books and a stuffed bunny. Booked for burglary of an auto was Roman Jarvis, 26. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

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Marc Blonsky



Ernie Santora

Peninsula college offers gay online course

by Cynthia Laird

Students from around the Bay Area — indeed from around the globe — can now enroll in the first online gay and lesbian literature course offered by Foothill College when fall quarter classes get under way September 25. The three-unit class, entitled "Gay and Lesbian Literature" will be taught by Scott Lankford, a Foothill College English instructor.

"We're expecting students from Lithuania to Louisiana to sign up for this innovative course," Lankford said. "It's my hope that students who do not have access to gay studies courses in their own communities will begin to connect with the whole universe of history and literature available to them."

"I'm also looking forward to discussing lesbian and gay literature with straight students who might be hesitant to sign up for a traditional gay-lit course that's offered closer to home. Like African American literature or world literature, the power and passion of

gay and lesbian literature is open to anyone," Lankford said.

In 1993, Lankford taught the college's first lesbian and gay literature course offered in Silicon Valley. He holds a doctorate in modern thought literature from Stanford University.

"The big difference in an online classroom as compared to a traditional classroom is that lectures and discussions will be conducted via the Web," Lankford said. "Anyone familiar with e-mail, chat, and Web-surfing should have enough computer knowledge to participate in lively class discussions."

Students who enroll in the course should be prepared for an intellectually rigorous college-level curriculum.

The course takes a solid historical approach to the study of gay and lesbian literature. The goal is to build a foundation for a lifetime of reading. Along with *Out of the Past*, a history of gay and lesbian identity, students will read works by Walt Whitman, Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, and James Baldwin.

The 12-week online class concludes with readings by a wide range of contemporary American authors, including poet and critic Gloria Anzaldua, National Book Award-winner Paul Monette, and California Native American author Greg Sarris.

In 1995, Foothill College became the first community college in the state to offer online instruction. Today, the college offers more online courses than any other community college in California. All Foothill online classes offer full college credit and most are transferable to four-year universities. Each course includes lectures, discussion, assignments, and tests delivered via the Internet with regular opportunities for electronic interaction between instructors and students.

California residents pay \$7 per unit of instruction at Foothill College. Students must have access to a computer and an e-mail account to enroll in online classes. Students can only enroll for online courses through the Internet registration process. For registration instructions, access www.foothillcol.edu

Legal workshop for cancer survivors Tues.

by Katie Szymanski

What's cancer got to do with it," a workshop presented by the Women's Cancer Resource Center and San Francis-

co Bar Association, will be held this Tuesday, September 12, from 6-8:30 p.m. in Berkeley.

The workshop is free, and will address your legal rights in the workplace and medical insurance, even if you have a history of cancer. Topics to be covered include the Americans with Disabilities Act, COBRA insurance options, and the Health Insurance Portability Act. Information will be presented by Janis Eggleston, an employment law attorney; Janet Brown, an attorney specializing in

the Employee Retirement Income Security Act; and Dan Hersh, a health insurance specialist with the Health Care Financing Administration.

Tuesday's workshop is at La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue, in Berkeley. The cultural center is convenient to the Ashby BART station or the number 43 AC Transit bus line, and is wheelchair accessible. To pre-register, or for more information, call Catherine Porter, WCRRC legal services coordinator, at (510) 548-9286, ext. 303. ▼

GLAAD

◀ page 10

New Directions, an organization treating gay and straight abusers. "(Gays) have been demonized in the past, have been told that these are doomed relationships. But now they're saying, 'We're going to ignore that, because it keeps us from helping ourselves.'"

The *Post* articles, along with an op-ed piece calling for increased understanding of the issue, are tools for beginning that help.

The articles can be viewed at <http://www.denverpost.com/archive/simple.htm> for a fee.

Contact Evan Dreyer, Editor, The Denver Post, 1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202; fax (303) 820-1502; e-mail: Letters@denverpost.com. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hate crimes prospects brighten in House, thanks to Republicans

by Bob Roehr

The prospect of passing federal hate crimes legislation got a significant boost when Representative Bill McCollum announced his support for the legislation. The Florida Republican is known as "Mr. Criminal Justice" for his work and chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on crime.

McCollum made the announcement in series of high-profile news conferences on August 29 in Tampa, West Palm Beach, and Miami. He is running for a Senate seat being vacated by Connie Mack, who voted for hate crimes legislation in the Senate and joined McCollum at the Tampa event.

"Hate crimes are not just crimes of violence but crimes against a class of people. They are statement crimes," said McCollum. "It is time for us to stand together and send a strong message that we will not tolerate any more attacks on any individual for who they are."

McCollum was joined at the Miami news conference by Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, members of the Broward Log Cabin Republican Club, and local gay and lesbian non-political groups.

"We applaud Congressman McCollum for taking a leadership role on combating anti-gay violence," said Tafel. "His strong support and his powerful position in Congress



Log Cabin Republicans' Executive Director Rich Tafel

make this a major breakthrough and we will continue working closely with him as this important legislation moves forward."

McCollum "has said that he would like to serve the kind of role that Gordon Smith [R-Oregon] served in the Senate," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "We applaud that."

She noted that McCollum had been a co-sponsor of hate crimes legislation in the last session of Congress but had hesitated to sign up again during this session. But Stachelberg received a call from his staff in July. Through a series

of conversations and a meeting with McCollum in Philadelphia during the Republican convention, they "came to a good understanding" on issues and tactics.

Among those was acceptance of the fact that the Judiciary Committee and the subcommittee on crime are among the most ideologically polarized in the House. Prospects of quickly moving hate crimes legislation through that process were not good. "We decided to explore other avenues," said Stachelberg.

Tafel said the McCollum intends to speak with Speaker Dennis Hastert, urging that the House

accept the Senate version of hate crimes legislation passed as an amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill.

"McCollum needs to be the one taking the lead, but he has to be joined by a number of his [Republican] colleagues. And that is where we have been working," said Stachelberg.

While 21 Republican have signed on as co-sponsors of hate crimes legislation, more than enough to pass the measure in the House, Republican leaders Dick Armey and Tom DeLay are on record as saying that the measure will not come up for a vote.

But the House may not need to vote on hate crimes legislation. It could accept the Senate amendment, either as a body or later in conference. The clock is ticking as Congress is set to adjourn on October 6.

Stachelberg said, "I think that we need to pursue as many strategies as possible, to leverage our political muscle and our legislative muscle, to make this not just a legislative issue but a campaign issue." ▼

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Legal showdown likely for Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

Robert Rosenkrantz's fight for parole appears to be headed for another legal showdown.

The gay Southern California man convicted of killing his basher was ordered paroled last June by a three-member panel of the Board of Prison Terms. The full board had until August 30 to review and finalize the order before sending it to Governor Gray Davis.

That deadline came and went. Board of Prison Terms spokeswoman Denise Schmidt told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the review was "delayed." Schmidt said she didn't know the reason for the delay.

Rosenkrantz's lawyer, Rowan Klein, has been traveling out of the country and unavailable for comment but last month he told the *B.A.R.* that he was concerned the board may violate the deadline and was prepared to take legal action if it did.

The parole board reluctantly ordered Rosenkrantz paroled on June 30. The panel was acting under a court order to release Rosenkrantz after a Superior Court judge ruled the board had



Robert Rosenkrantz

unfairly denied Rosenkrantz's parole. The California Court of Appeals later strongly affirmed the Superior Court order. The California Attorney General's office appealed the case to the California Supreme Court but the high court refused to hear the case.

Davis has promised to block the parole of all convicted murderers. He stopped Rosenkrantz's parole once before. Klein has promised to sue Davis if he holds up Rosenkrantz's parole again when it does get to his desk on the grounds Davis is violating a court order.

Rosenkrantz has become a cause célèbre for prisoners' rights groups. But victims' rights organizations are concerned Rosenkrantz's parole could open the floodgates for the parole for other inmates with life sentences.

Rosenkrantz was 18 and had just graduated from Calabasas High School in 1985 when he was physically attacked and ousted by 17-year-old Steve Redman. A week later, Rosenkrantz confronted Redman and demanded he retract his outing. The two argued and Rosenkrantz shot and killed Redman.

Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in. He was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 17-years-to-life.

By all accounts, he has been a model prisoner. All psychological and prison evaluations prepared by the California Department of Corrections strongly recommend his parole. ▼

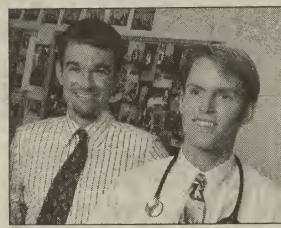
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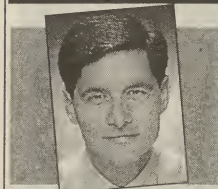
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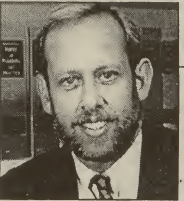
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Feds, candidates back anti-gay Scout policy

by Bob Roehr

The Boy Scouts of America claim that being anti-gay is a core principle of the organization. And they won the right to discriminate against gays in a decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in June. Now Attorney General Janet Reno, and presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore all agree that it is perfectly fine for the federal government to help the Scouts carry out that policy.

This latest development in the Boy Scout saga began with a front-page article in the conservative *Washington Times*. On August 31 it wrote that the Department of the Interior was gathering information on existing ties that the agency has with the Boy Scouts. The context was a June 23 executive order by President Clinton banning federal discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The memo requesting information specifically mentioned the Boy Scout Jamboree, a quadrennial event next held in July 2001. The venue for recent jamborees has been Fort A.P. Hill, an Army base in Virginia.

"This appears to be a precursor to a full-throated attack on the Scouts by the Clinton administration," charged Robert Knight of the Family Research Council. Right wing "attack dogs" competed to see who could be the most vocal and lurid in their defense of the Scouts.

"If Bill Clinton is so intent on forcing the Scouts to enlarge their pup tent to include homosexuals, then he should resign as honorary president of the organization," said Knight.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott added,

"You would think that if the president had the courage of his convictions and stood behind his executive order, he would resign as honorary president of the Scouts."

Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-California) made a similar call for Clinton's resignation from the honorary position in a letter sent to the President in mid-July. Her rationale was disassociation from the Scout's self-proclaimed bigotry. Ten other liberal Democratic members of Congress signed that letter.

But the president "has no intention of stepping down as honorary chair," said White House deputy press secretary Jake Siewert. That statement led both the left and the right to question just how strong Clinton's commitment is to the principle of federal non-discrimination against gays and lesbians.

David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign said, "We would not like to see a national leader of this country associated with a group that discriminates." The statement supported a principle without holding Clinton accountable for violating that principle.

Bush promptly issued a news release saying that he was "troubled by this memo." He hoped that Clinton and Gore would "respect the role the Boy Scouts play in our society and will not allow them to be shut out of federal lands."

Gore seemed equally willing for the federal government to abet anti-gay discrimination by the Boy Scouts. "In a Gore administration Boy Scouts will be allowed to use federal land," said campaign spokesman Douglas Hattaway.

There was a surreal quality to the scenario for those who knew that Hattaway is openly gay and

once served as spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign.

Reno tried to put out the political firestorm by ruling that the executive order "does not apply to private organizations that may use federal lands for their own training programs."

So the Boy Scouts will be able to fire away at the rifle range during the Jamboree.

Reno's statement was issued late Friday evening, September 1, when much of Washington had departed for the Labor Day weekend. It followed an established administration pattern of releasing controversial decisions when they would gather the least media attention.

But Reno's focus on the executive order is irrelevant, said Evan Wolfson an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund who argued the Boy Scouts case before the Supreme Court.

"Even without an executive order, the government at any level — federal, state, local — cannot be an accomplice to discrimination. It doesn't take an executive order to say that," according to Wolfson. "As a basic constitutional principle, the government may not be a party to discrimination."

Wolfson is wary of turning to litigation as a first or even a primary tool to resolve this issue. "It's not about gays protesting the Boy Scouts," he said, "it's about empowering fair minded people across the country to take a stand."

"This is a terrific opportunity for us to have a dialogue with corporate and community leaders and encourage them to live up to their own moral goodness to do the right thing." He is urging everyone in gay and lesbian community to engage in that dialogue. ▼

Denise D'Anne

◀ page 1

6 candidate Denise D'Anne, "while I've been in there working on these things for years. These are not new issues."

Before she retired last year, D'Anne worked for the city for over 30 years, initially with the Department of Public Health and later with the Department of Human Services. She knows how the wheels of the bureaucracy turn — or don't — on a nuts-and-bolts level.

"Having an inside view, that certainly helps," she said. "I noticed that there were wasteful practices and poor management. They were wasting a lot of money. It was outrageous."

The programs she created at DHS, which she believes should be adopted throughout the city government, won her a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Mayor Willie Brown.

"Basically, it is all common sense," said D'Anne, who has a strong passion for teaching people to practice efficiency and economy in daily living. "And they don't understand that in our society because they're used to wasting things."

"It's like paper towels. Why do we need those? That's why God made rags. Little things mean a lot," she said. "Our way of living has got to change, if we're going to save our planet and save ourselves."

But while the changes she instituted have made a difference at DHS, D'Anne longs to implement her brand of common sense environmental activism citywide, and is convinced that many city services could be created or expanded with the savings.

"We need a zero-based budget," she said. "That would incentivize people to stop wasting money."

As one of the 18 candidates vying to represent District 6,

which encompasses the South of Market, the Tenderloin, part of Hayes Valley, the Inner Mission, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island, one of D'Anne's passions has been transportation and parking problems in the city. She is working to get a measure on the ballot in 2001 that would require people who park on city property to pay for that privilege, and also proposes free Muni service in the downtown business district, car-sharing, and other programs to get cars off the streets.

D'Anne is also concerned with how the city is mistreating homeless people.

"Putting people in shelters or having them sleeping on the streets is unconscionable," she remarked. "We don't even have stray animals on the street."

"I propose that we treat people humanely," said D'Anne, who proposes a voluntary housing program for homeless people on

next page ▶



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NATIONAL NEWS

GenderPAC keeps growing

by Katie Szymanski

It's not news that the lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders who are most often the victims of assault are butch women and femme guys. But it is significant that a growing number of people are finally recognizing that it is society's prescribed gender roles, not necessarily who people sleep with, that makes a person a visible target for rage. The fight for equality is shifting toward gender, and rightly so: for the average gay man persecuted for who he loves, for the femme lesbian defying what is expected of her, for Private First Class Barry Winchell, murdered for dating a woman who happened to be transsexual, and for the tranny fag, who, according to the world, is a heterosexual (born a female and now having sex with men) with a fashion problem.

At the forefront of gender rights progress is Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, founded in New York as a volunteer organization in 1995. GenderPAC is the national organization that fights to guarantee every American's civil right to their gender identity or expression free of stereotypes, discrimination, and violence. The organization is just a day away from officially opening its new offices in Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle, a day that also marks the first time the organization has had a full-time staff.

"It's amazing what we've been able to do in the span of a year," Riki Wilchins, GenderPAC's executive director, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. What was a staff of three to four volunteers and a \$55,000 budget last year is now a paid staff of three and a budget of over \$250,000. What's more, GenderPAC membership has gone from 150 to 550 people, and half of those members identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, "who get it that gender is an issue for them," according to Wilchins.

Wilchins nabbed Gina Reiss as GenderPAC's new managing director to run daily operations; Reiss is a female-identified lesbian who is often mistaken for a male and sometimes thrown out of restrooms.

"She's the cutting edge of where gender is going," said Wilchins of Reiss. Also on staff is a trans-identified young man named Shawn Luby.

"GenderPAC gave me a way to approach activism from another point of view," said Reiss, who is relocating from New Jersey to D.C. to take up the helm. Reiss had been a volunteer at GenderPAC, but got her start at the National Organization for Women in



GenderPAC's Gina Reiss, managing director, left, and Executive Director Riki Wilchins open a new office in Washington, D.C.

New Jersey. She also served on the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's LGBT federation, which developed political strategies for equality in each state.

"GenderPAC is really the direction our movement needs to be going in, and we've finally turned a major corner," said Reiss. "The younger generation really grasp it. They don't want to be put into a box; they want to have the right to wear a dress one day and a suit the next. We're taking away the hierarchies of who belongs and who doesn't. Nobody's trying to say LGBT rights are irrelevant but this is where activists and people like me want to be doing our work. This is the wave of the future."

Wilchins agrees. "It's not just about 'those transgenders over there,'" she said. "It's about the little girl who kind of acts like a tomboy, the straight woman who is perceived as not feminine enough for her job."

GenderPAC's noteworthy efforts include filing an amicus or "friend of the court" brief in the appeal of the Brandon Teena wrongful death award of only \$17,000 to his mother, JoAnn Brandon. The small amount is basically unheard of for the loss of a child, especially considering that the police had the power to arrest Teena's rapists before they became killers. Last March, a GenderPAC hate crimes benefit featured Hilary Swank, the Oscar-winning star of the hit movie *Boys Don't Cry*, based on Teena's story.

Gender advocacy efforts

Currently, the organization is involved in advocating for the Ohio parents of a little girl who was born as a biological male. Six-year-old "Zachary" Aurora Lipscomb, a self-identified girl since the age of 2, was raised as a girl by

cludes an all-star lineup.

In the past few months, GenderPAC has been featured in the *Advocate*, the *B.A.R.*, *Lesbian and Gay New York*, *Girlfriends*, and in stories by the Associated Press. And GenderPAC was also just recently awarded \$15,000 from the Gill Foundation to continue its work.

For GenderPAC staff, the swelling interest in gender rights is exhilarating, and proves that the organization's positions are starting to catch on.

"Gender is far too fundamental to belong to any one group,"

said Wilchins. "This is not some wing of LGBT rights, this is a whole new movement with its own dialogue."

"It's so cool to be a part of this new movement at the start of the century," said Reiss. "We're starting with a blank slate, and the possibilities are endless. This movement is for everyone to create with us." ▼

For more information on GenderPAC, or any of the issues the organization tackles,

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Denise D'Anne

◀ previous page

Treasure Island, in college-like dormitory buildings where they could access various services, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

Placing people with substance abuse problems on Treasure Island would "keep them away from temptation," she added.

D'Anne, a self-described transgender person who sits on the executive board of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Democratic Club, has strong backing from labor, recently winning an endorsement from the San Francisco Labor Council, which represents

150 union locals with 80,000 workers, in addition to the Service Employees International Union and the Firefighters Union locals.

In 1998, when D'Anne ran for supervisor citywide, she received 34,000 votes but lost when the incumbents were re-elected. In that race she had the backing of the San Francisco Tenant's Union, though this year the group has endorsed District 6 competitor Chris Daly.

D'Anne has raised only about \$600 for her effort, but is also kicking upwards of \$10,000 of her own money, she said.

D'Anne's campaign is holding a benefit this Friday, September 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 1375 Sutter Street, suite 106, between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street. ▼

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Sacramento's KXTV to air Dr. Laura show

Station promises to 'closely monitor' show

by Dan Aiello

Despite enormous controversy over radio personality Dr. Laura Schlessinger's alleged hate-filled remarks about homosexuals, ABC-TV affiliate KXTV in Sacramento will air Schlessinger's television show, *Dr. Laura*, beginning this Monday, September 11.

In San Francisco, CBS affiliate KPIX also plans to air Schlessinger's show starting Monday. Station executives told the *Bay Area Reporter* earlier this year that they had received "an enormous volume of e-mails" concerning the station's plans to air the show locally.

"We will reject any program that denigrates or espouses hate or intolerance for any group," said KPIX's statement.

Asked what the station would do should Schlessinger espouse such hate on her TV show, Rosemary Roach, KPIX's director of programming, told the *B.A.R.* that "at that point, we would seriously look at" whether to continue airing the show.

Roach said KPIX has a "contractual obligation" to air the show but that the station "looks at all programming that airs on our station."

Sacramento-based KXTV's

president and CEO Sam Rossenwasser stated in a letter responding to complaints about the upcoming broadcast as well as in a press release issued last week that he has put Paramount, the show's producer, "on notice" that he will be closely monitoring the show's content and subject matter.

"[KXTV] purchased the program over a year ago. At that time, we were totally unaware of the comments she was making that have caused the controversy. Once we became aware of what she had said on her radio show, I approached Paramount Television. I have been assured that her program will not deal with [homosexuality]," stated Rossenwasser.

Schlessinger, a talk show shock jock, frequently interrupts her radio show callers to angrily berate them for not living up to her own brand of morality. Instead of trying to help callers through difficult real life problems, which she claims to be her objective, she judges them and the world around her as somehow inferior to herself.

Ironically, Schlessinger, while seeking shelter from her critics behind the shield of the First Amendment, has hypocritically attacked the First Amendment for protecting the opinions of those with whom she disagrees. Schlessinger is quoted as saying, "the First Amendment is not the 11th commandment. Its protection does not extend to all speech." In fact, Schlessinger took a former boyfriend to court three years ago to prevent the sale and distribution of pornographic pictures she posed for during their relationship.

Schlessinger was a strong supporter of Proposition 22, California's same-sex marriage ban (she rails against presidential candidate Al Gore for opposing Proposition 22), as well as Vermont's civil union bill and Minnesota's educational program teaching homosexuality as normal. Schlessinger has said on her talk show to millions of listeners: "If you're gay or lesbian, you are a biological error." Along with calling homosexual

practices "deviant," she also has stated that she believes, "a huge portion of the homosexual male populace is predatory on young boys," implying that adult homosexuality leads to criminal acts of pedophilia despite volumes of evidence that adult sexuality, whether homosexual or heterosexual, has nothing to do with pedophilia, rape or molestation.

Schlessinger refused for years to retract any of her statements against homosexuality until last year, when the LGBT community, led by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, began protesting plans for her expansion into television. After picketing began in front of Paramount Studios and corporate sponsors began to flee from the show's controversy, Schlessinger issued a statement that her quotes had been "taken out of context." She "apologized" if she offended anyone.

Schlessinger misleads her listeners into believing she has a doctorate in psychology or psychiatry when, in fact, she received her doctorate in physiology, the study of the functions of the body. She does have a license to counsel from the University of Southern California, but despite the fact her doctorate degree is unrelated to her on-air counseling, she continues to use it as part of her show's title.

Dawn Deason, an activist within Sacramento's LGBT community, is also a promotions producer at KXTV Channel 10. Deason claims that Channel 10's programming director, Kevin Williams, feels that the station is essentially "stuck" with the show. According to Deason, Williams said, "What are we going to do? We've already purchased it."

"Obviously, we are in the financial position of wanting the show to be successful," said Deason.

Financial success could be difficult for the show, as a reported 10 percent of its major sponsors have already pulled out. Even Priceline.com, once Schlessinger's strongest supporter, has pulled its ad dollars from her television show, according to reports at www.stopdrlaura.com, a Web site that sprang up several months ago and has been instrumental in working with GLAAD to get sponsors to drop their ads. Other companies that have dropped sponsorship of Schlessinger's show include Procter & Gamble, AT&T, United Airlines, Xerox, and Sears.

Russell Postell, KXTV's ad sales manager, refused to comment on whether or not they've had difficulty selling the show.

KXTV will actively promote *Dr. Laura*, unless viewership or advertisers become too scarce, or public outcry too great. Still, Deason supports her employer and maintained the station is sensitive to the community. "We are the main media sponsor for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation every year," she said.

Mathew Burlingame, another Sacramento LGBT community activist, said that "no protests are currently planned" before the September 11 broadcast. However, community members are encouraged to contact KXTV's president and programming director at www.kxtv.com. ▼

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- Studies repeatedly report that the most common reason for patients not taking their medication is simply "forgetting."
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Companies that have dropped Dr. Laura

A growing list of companies that have pulled support from Dr. Laura Schlessinger's radio and/or upcoming television program. They include:

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American Express
Kraft
Kroger
Amica Insurance
TCF Bank

— compiled by Dan Aiello

COMMUNITY NEWS

N-9

◀ page 1

though many relied on the gel.

The women using the N-9 gel were about 50 percent more likely to be infected than those using the placebo.

"Further, the more frequently women used only N-9 gel (without a condom) to protect themselves, the higher their risk of becoming infected," Gayle reported. "Simply stated, N-9 did not protect against HIV infection and may have caused more transmission. Women who used N-9 also had more vaginal lesions, which might have facilitated HIV transmission."

Because the FDA never approved use of N-9 as a microbicide to protect against HIV infection, lubricant manufacturers do not claim that it helps prevent infection on their product labels. Also for this reason, FDA is not likely to issue a recall of products containing N-9, and has not issued a warning to anyone using it in anal intercourse.

The CDC plans to review its current prevention guidelines, which recommend use of a condom "with or without a spermicide" over the next few months.

Wet dumps N-9

Virtually all water-based lubricants are available with or without N-9, and as a result of the CDC letter, at least one manufacturer has decided to eliminate N-9 altogether.

"We've voluntarily taken it out of our products, based on the letter from the CDC," Michael Trygstad, CEO and founder of Trigg Inc., told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Trygstad's company manufactures the Wet line of sexual lubricants, with substantial marketing programs targeting the gay community. "I felt the responsibility to take it out."

Very little research has been done looking at the utility of microbicides in anal sex in people, and Gayle's letter did not mention gay men specifically. But because the lining of the vagina is capable of sustaining much more "wear and tear" than the lining of the

rectum, in lieu of waiting years for the research to be even funded, the risk of using N-9 extends to anyone who practices anal sex.

The UNAIDS study used about three-and-a-half times the concentration of N-9 as had been used in Wet Original, which contained a 1 percent solution.

Robin Ogilvie, CEO of Trimensa, which manufactures Foreplay lubricants, said that he will not be removing N-9 from his products which contain a lesser concentration, about a tenth of 1 percent. Saying that there are "an equal number of positives as negatives about the product," Ogilvie nevertheless acknowledged that his company had reduced the concentration of N-9 in Foreplay from 1 percent to .1 percent about 18 months ago when a study involving cats showed that the higher concentration caused significant irritation to the rectal tissue. The lower concentration was not studied.

Other studies have shown that N-9 can be dangerous to both mice and men, leaving them vulnerable to infection. The B.A.R. reported on March 23 on a study from Dr. David Phillips, a senior scientist with the Population Council, in which mice were easily and quickly killed by a herpes virus when their rectums were previously treated with an N-9 solution. Looking at a biopsy of the rectal tissue under a microscope, Phillips found "places where there was no epithelium at all, just connective tissue. ... The N-9 had stripped the epithelial cells off of these animals."

Phillips then looked at the chemical's effects on the rectal tissue of four human volunteers, comparing over the counter lubricants containing 1 percent or 2 percent N-9. The results were "striking," Phillips said with "sheets of epithelial cells, hundreds of them, in each one of the samples."

Despite this accumulating evidence, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has no plans to issue an alert about N-9, and while area prevention organizations do not recommend use of N-9 as a means to prevent HIV infection, they also do not recom-

mend that people do not use products that contain the chemical.

Oddly, many prevention organizations and public health workers acknowledge that it has been known for some time that N-9 causes an allergic reaction among some men, and irritation in others. Some organizations give condoms laced with N-9 only on request.

Bryan Burns, the new director of prevention services at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said, "We've heard of studies over the years to suggest that N-9 might be an irritant. N-9 does irritate the vaginal lining and we can assume through extension that it will irritate the rectal lining."

Pressed as to whether SFAF will change its policy and discourage use of N-9, he replied, "Perhaps. My perspective is to make sure this information gets into the hands of gay men, and let them make informed decisions about their sexual practices."

"The evidence that we have now is that there's more danger than benefit," commented Martin Delaney, founding director of Project Inform, a national HIV treatment education and advocacy group. While noting that "in fact, it takes a lot of effort to infect people," Delaney said that current research suggests that N-9 can add to the danger of HIV transmission, and called for the FDA "to issue a warning letter on it right now."

The FDA press office did not return a call for comment by press time.

"The responsible thing to do is to make sure the consumer is aware as possible," said Jeff Phillips, CEO of SafeSense.com, an online retailer of condoms and lubricants. Although N-9 is by far the most common spermicide added to lubricants carried on his Web site, or on competitor Web sites like Condomania.com, Phillips noted that SafeSense.com also has a new water-based lubricant gel called "DeLube," containing a microbicide called "benzalkonium chloride."

Steven Tierney, director of HIV prevention for DPH, said that his staff will be meeting this Friday, September 8 to discuss the implications of the research that has been done on N-9. ▼

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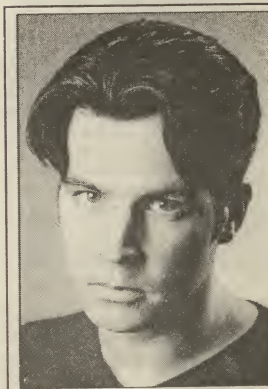


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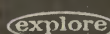
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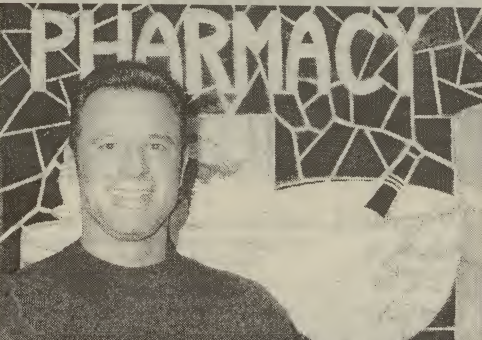
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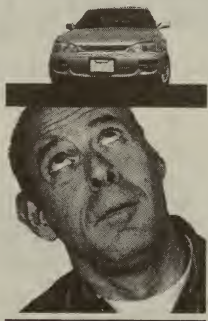
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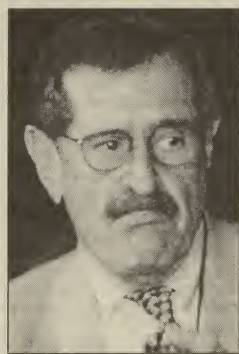
UC establishes new pot research center

by Liz Highleyman

The University of California last week announced the establishment of a new research center to study the safety and efficacy of medicinal marijuana.

The Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR) will be a collaborative project of the University of California at San Francisco and the University of California at San Diego, and will be housed at UCSF.

Dr. Igor Grant, a professor of psychiatry at UCSF and director of UCSF's HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center will serve as the CMCR's director. Co-directors include Dr. J. Hampton Atkinson, UCSF professor of psychiatry; Dr. Andrew Mattison, UCSF associate professor of psychiatry and family and clinical medicine; and Dr. Donald Abrams, UCSF professor of medicine. Abrams recently presented research at the 13th International Conference on AIDS in Durban, South Africa, that showed that medicinal cannabis can be used without detrimental effects in people taking combina-



State Senator John Vasconcellos

tion antiretroviral therapy for HIV disease.

The CMCR was granted \$3 million worth of state funding for its first year of operations, and will coordinate medical cannabis research conducted at universities and centers throughout California. The funding is the outcome of SB847, a state bill sponsored by state Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara) and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis last

October. The law calls for a three-year program of medical research to "enhance understanding of the efficacy and adverse effects of marijuana as a pharmacological agent." The CMCR will begin soliciting competitive grant applications this fall, which will be reviewed by an independent national scientific review panel. Studies may begin as early as January 2001.

Data from CMCR studies will be used to develop guidelines for appropriate medical use of marijuana. A recent report by the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine called for further study of the use of medical cannabis for various medical conditions including HIV, cancer, and multiple sclerosis. According to Vasconcellos — perhaps too optimistically in light of last month's Supreme Court ruling against buyer's clubs that distribute medical marijuana — "The politics of medical marijuana are behind us as we begin the important work of researching the safety and efficacy of medicinal marijuana. Now ... the issue of medicinal marijuana is properly in the hands of physicians and researchers." ▼

Off-leash areas

◀ page 2

body else has left. Likewise, those people who leave dog waste will continue to exist long after the established dog community has been kicked out of the open space bordering the Muni tracks. That means that dog waste will be even worse, since nobody will be around to clean up the stray messes. A dog does not even have to be "off-leash" to belong to an irresponsible owner.

Second, bad behavior — whether from a dog or an owner — is not tolerated by off-leash regu-

lars. Dog owners are expected to keep their dogs away from the playground and from other people in the park, and those who don't are reprimanded by the group. That means that when these regulars are booted, anyone who lets their dog off-leash will be doing so without the supervision that comes from the gathering of responsible people.

Third, there is one thing missing from the argument against open space for dogs: people. Dogs come with owners and walkers we call humans. These humans have built a family based on congregating around the park benches, a family that includes many people

they normally would not have a chance to know. They gather in an area that floods during the winter and is rarely used in the summer, and work together to preserve that area. Yet the Department of Parks and Recreation has named their animals as one of the three main problems plaguing the park, in addition to homelessness and drugs. Nowhere is there mention of irresponsible dog owners as the cause of disarray; all dogs suffer the brunt of actions limited to a handful of people.

These and other points will be addressed at a public hearing on dogs in the park on Thursday,

next page ▶

Gay man killed

◀ page 3

same day as the accident. He's scheduled to be arraigned today on felony hit-and-run and DUI charges.

The intersection where Gumb was hit is the most dangerous crossing in the Castro, according to Frank Markowitz of the Department of Parking and Traffic. Ten accidents involving pedestrians were reported there from 1995 to 1999. In that same period, there were nine at the 14th/Market/Church intersection and eight at the 17th/Market/Castro crossing.

By way of comparison,

Markowitz told the B.A.R. that the worst intersection for pedestrians in San Francisco is 6th and Mission, with 17 reported accidents. Sixteenth and Mission and the intersection of Geary and Van Ness were tied for second with 13 accidents each for 1995-99.

The chairman of the Pedestrian Safety Task Force, Howard Strassner, said his organization is very concerned for pedestrian safety in the Castro. The task force recently drew up a series of recommendations to make the Market/Castro/17th intersection safer. Strassner said he hoped those suggestions could be incorporated into the remodeling design for Harvey Milk Plaza.

The 16th/Market/Noe intersection where Gumb was hit is one that has concerned people who live and work in the area for several years. Mark Torres works in the Metro bar overlooking the crossing. He said that although he's a new employee, he's become very concerned about pedestrian safety at the intersection. He's heard his fellow workers describe several close calls and accidents. Torres told the B.A.R. that just a week before Gumb was hit, he had an eerie dream he was hit by a car and killed at the crossing.

Gumb's friends and family would no doubt give anything if their nightmare was only a dream. ▼

Gay lawsuit

◀ page 4

ately sharing assets and control over the properties. In 1999, the couple split up, with O'Mara reportedly leaving Williams not a dime. The suit asks for half of the couple's assets for Williams.

O'Mara contests the allegation that he ever agreed to any such verbal contract. But should the court find the facts indisputable,

the next step will challenge the state's Family Code altogether.

McCoy is arguing that his client, Williams, had an implied contract and a "putative marriage" based on a small, often-overlooked section of the Family Code that allows people who do not have legally valid marriages to claim that their marriage should be recognized.

"It's a section that usually applies to people who get married in Las Vegas, then find out later that it wasn't official," McCoy told the

Bay Area Reporter. "But one of the reasons I took this case was the chance to clarify and define that section of the Family Code."

The legal proceedings will be trapped in the system for at least a year, said McCoy, but when it's decision time, McCoy is hopeful that the courts will grant same-sex partners the same recognition afforded to common-law heterosexuals.

"It's time," said McCoy, "for California to do something groundbreaking." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harvey Milk Institute begins fall classes

by Liz Highleyman

The brand new course catalog from the Harvey Milk Institute — the world's largest center for queer studies — is now available and, as usual, is brimming over with a wide variety of educational and cultural choices for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. HMI's 13th semester, which runs from September through December, includes more offerings than ever before, with over 120 workshops, classes, and events. By the end of the semester, HMI will have presented more than 1,000 events in its five-and-a-half year history.

As usual, HMI's offerings are exceedingly diverse, ranging from history to art to sex to personal finance. Students can learn to make clothes and jewelry, produce and edit video, or polish up their writing or acting skills. Or they can find out about "Human Evolution from a Queer Perspective," or learn to speak Spanish or Thai. Several offerings deal with workplace issues, including "Coming Out at Work — Gracefully." Facing the uncertain Bay Area rental market, students may want to check out "How to Purchase Your First Home," to finance such a purchase, they could first explore "Investing in Stocks" — 101, 201, or 301.

As usual, there are offerings for seniors, youth, gay men, lesbians, butches, femmes, and transgendered people of all sorts, although this year's catalog lacks any specifically bisexual content. Some HMI favorites return again this semester, including "Self-Defense for Women" and Susan Stryker's "Intro to San Francisco Queer History." These join new offerings such as "Travel Writing 101," "Intellectual Property for Artists," and "Lillith and Other Tramps: A Romp through Jewish Folktales." Among the semester's well-known presenters are Pamel Ayo Yetunde, Tom Bianchi, Dr. John de Cecco, Tee Corinne, Carol Queen, Karen Ripley, Frank Strona, and perennial HMI instructor Mitcho.

This fall HMI will team up with A Different Light Bookstore and the Metropolitan Community Church to present the 6th Readers & Writers Conference, which will run October 13-15. The confer-

ence will open with a panel on "San Francisco Gentrification: Its Impact on the Queer Literary and Arts Community," featuring Sini Anderson, Rhodessa Jones, Sara Schulman, and others.

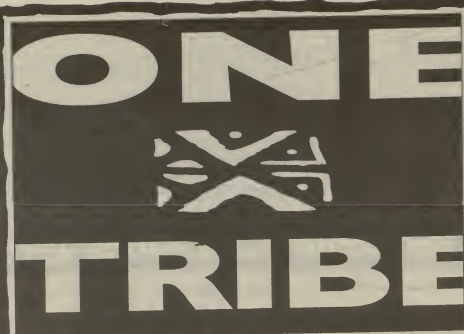
For a month starting in mid-October, HMI along with Eros and the Stop AIDS Project will once again present the Sex/Life series. The series will feature 21 workshops including both new offerings such as the Trannyfag series workshop on "Glory-Hole Etiquette," and old favorites such as "Buttplay: a Hands-In Approach" and "Journey to Your Anus." While the Sex/Life series has been educating queer men for eight years now, HMI this semester expands its sexual offerings for queer women, with "Lesbian Sex," "Blood Play for Women," and the opportunity to tour a working dungeon.

As it has for the past several semesters, HMI will offer a series of free classes for young people aged

23 and under, including "Defend Yourself without Lifting A Finger: Assertiveness Techniques for Youth," and workshops on making alters, masks, and shamanic talismans. This semester HMI will collaborate with the San Francisco Mime Troupe to produce a youth theater project and performance series. November 4 will see the return of Genderblast!, a daylong event for genderqueer youth and their friends and allies of all ages.

According to HMI Executive Director and Dean Kevin Schaub, "We're gearing up for a stellar semester. As always, HMI lets its students see what's happening culturally in their own backyard." ▼

Course offerings and enrollment information are also available on HMI's Web site at www.harveymilk.org. Students can register online or by e-mail, phone, fax, or mail.



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Off-leash areas

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September 14, from 7-9 p.m. The hearing, held at Mission High School, will give many Castro and Mission residents a chance to talk about why their canine companions need park space, too. Organized dog walkers, by far the biggest group using the park each day, are just a heartbeat away from being banished to a small pen, where puppy exercise remains but a memory. All dog walkers and owners are encouraged to attend; for more information visit www.doloresparkdogs.com.

Just up the hill, in a similar struggle, dogs at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center are fenced in nose-to-nose on a concrete floor. A community review of this solution is also scheduled at EVRC for this Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. ▼





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New hope from approved drugs: Redfield speaks

by Jeff Gustavson,
 Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Dr. Robert Redfield, director of clinical research at the Institute of Human Virology in Baltimore, describes his work at IHV as "exploiting the human body for therapeutic potential." Toward this end, he and others are currently investigating three main areas with respect to HIV.

First, can host directed mechanisms of immunity be modified via a therapeutic vaccine? Second, can chemokine (Macrophage Inflammatory Proteins MIP-1 alpha, MIP-1 beta, RANTES, etc.) expression and/or production be altered? Third, what host cell pathways can be exploited (either increased or interfered with) to allow better control of viral replication?

It is in this third category that Redfield recently spoke about at length. In order for HIV to reverse transcribe, that is, take the information that it has in the form of RNA when it enters a target cell and put it in the form of DNA, the viral enzyme reverse transcriptase must use the existing nucleotides of the cell it has infected. These four nucleotides: Adenine (A) and Guanine (G) – the purines, along with Cytosine (C) and Thymine (T) – the pyrimidines, are what makes up the genetic triplet code of our genes. Each of our cells must produce these nucleotides in sufficient quantity for a cell to divide and make copies of itself. At the same time, HIV subverts this intent and uses the nucleotides to put its genes into the cell's chromosomes.

Strengthen your inhibitions

"In 1995, Franco Lori and Bob Gallo demonstrated that purine [A and G] biosynthesis could be inhibited by interfering with anuclear reductase using hydroxyurea and ddI," Redfield said. It was on this basis, that the now famous "Berlin patient" was treated. "In that regard, we postulated that other targets could be investigated. Another pathway of purine, specifically, guanine biosynthesis was inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH). Since abacavir [brand name Ziagen]

was being used in the treatment of HIV as a guanine analog, we postulated that some synergy might be obtained if we reduced the pool of naturally occurring guanine available and increasing the likelihood of reverse transcriptase using the abacavir. This led to our in vitro experiments and subsequent clinical investigation of mycophenolate mofetil.

"Our reasons were several fold. In the reticular cell system [including monocytes and lymphocytes – T and B cells], the IMPDH pathway is the only way cells make guanine [other cells would still be able to make needed guanine] so there is a possibility of less toxicity. Additionally, these molecules affect cell cycle [their

ability to divide], which has in turn multiple effects on the viral life cycle with their target."

Do not enter

Cells are both more susceptible to infection as well as viral production when dividing. Hoffman La Roche's Web site states "Mycophenolate mofetil did not inhibit early events in the activation of human peripheral blood mononuclear cells, such as the production of interleukin-1 [IL-1] and interleukin-2 [IL-2], but did block the coupling of these events to DNA synthesis and proliferation."

Redfield continued, "Last December, we published a paper showing that multiply drug resistant virus cultured with mycophenolate and abacavir in the test tube reverted to wild type. We theorize that this is a result of nucleotide pool depletion by mycophenolate."

Finding out more

In human phase I trials of the abacavir/mycophenolate combination they were able to show a statistically significant initial drop in viral load, but the durability of that response seems to have been lost at weeks 24 and 36 at a dose of 250 milligrams twice a day. Higher doses blocked cellular immunity and exacerbated herpes infections. Redfield was led to "look more broadly. Could mycophenolate be used to enhance durability? Would it be superior in an initial regimen?"

An AIDS Clinical Trials Group trial currently in development but

which should be enrolling later this year, A5051, will be using mycophenolate in a salvage regimen and will further elaborate on its possible utility there. A planned trial using mycophenolate as an initial regimen was scrapped by the leadership of the ACTG. Redfield was disappointed. "I am interested in doing what I can to avert the ever widening gap between healthcare in the U.S. and the rest of the world. I am interested in developing sustainable therapies for worldwide application. The push for such therapies is unlikely to come from the pharmaceutical industry – most likely it will come from government and community groups. I believe that cell cycle agents work much better and are worthwhile research endeavors," he said.

New organs

Mycophenolate Mofetil (manufactured by Hoffman-LaRoche, brand name CellCept, see <http://www.rocheusa.com/products/cellcept/pi.html>) is currently an approved immune suppressive anti-rejection drug used for solid organ transplant. This is the drug that will be used in the liver transplant program for HIV-positive people that was recently funded by the National Institutes of Health. San Francisco General Hospital is one of the five initially funded sites nationwide.

Redfield commented, "I view the solid organ transplant program as a positive thing. Clearly, the demand for livers will only accelerate when considering the number of HIV and HCV [hepatitis C virus] coinfections. Our clinic has 300 African American patients on dialysis in need of kidneys."

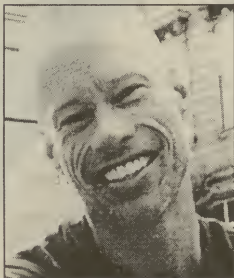
Don't try this at home

This column would be remiss if it did not restate the company's warning from its Web site: "WARNING: Increased susceptibility to infection and the possible development of lymphoma may result from immunosuppression. Only physicians experienced in immunosuppressive therapy and management of renal or cardiac transplant patients should use CellCept."

Considering the underlying risk for lymphoma already in persons with HIV, it is with caution that these trials are proceeding. It is not recommended that the community try this on their own at this stage. ▼

Matt Sharp leaves SF, moves to Chicago

by Terry Beswick



Matt Sharp is off to Chicago

AIDS activist Matt Sharp, a longtime contributor to the Bay Area Reporter as a member of Survive AIDS writers pool, packed his bags and moved to Chicago this week.

"I met somebody over a year ago," Sharp explained to the B.A.R., "and we've had this long-distance relationship, and it was time for one of us to move."

Sharp, a veteran of Survive AIDS (formerly ACT UP/Golden

Gate), moved to San Francisco in 1991 from Oklahoma City.

"Most of my work was focused on lobbying and doing community work with the pharmaceuticals," said Sharp, who is recognized nationally as a leading HIV/AIDS treatment activist. He was recognized as an "AIDS Hero" in 1995 at the International Candlelight Vigil in San Francisco, when the event was coordinated by Mobilization Against AIDS.

Sharp has been involved in a wide variety of key projects that

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Dennis Colella

September 28, 1949 —
August 27, 2000



Dennis, age 50, passed away peacefully in his sleep in San Francisco. He had been a long-term AIDS survivor. His loving partner, Ron Sawhill, predeceased him in 1995.

Dennis is survived by his father, Dominick, his brother, Gary, sister-in-law, Sue, several nieces and nephews, as well as many devoted friends, including Bill Sweeney, Phillip

Torrence, Mark Landerghini, Xavier Lovato, Camillo Cimis, Paul Young, John Kossenys, and others too numerous to mention. He will be much missed for his wit, spirit, kindness, and love of life. There will be a memorial service in October. For information, call 558-9340 after September 30.

Richard S. Hicks

July 30, 1946 — September 1, 2000



My deeply beloved and most gracious Richard fought a 15-month battle with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma with incredible courage, dignity and grace. He won this battle and now walks with God.

Richard was born in Lehi, Utah, the eldest child of D.J. and Wanoma Hicks. Richard moved to San Francisco in 1972 after serving in the Marines, Army and living in Nevada for one year. Richard was the devoted life partner and best friend of Greg Brandt as Greg was to Richard. He was also a loyal friend and protector to Rob Schmidt, Aloha Ailes, Fanny Tjoa, and many friends at the Stanford Court Hotel.

At Richard's request, his mortal remains will be scattered in Japan and the mountains of Utah.

All of us who loved him so much want to express our love and gratitude to those who worked so diligently and with such compassion to ease Richard's pain and give him comfort, notably, Dr. Gary Feldman, Dr. Ari Baron, Carol Dunkley, R.N., and especially Elaine Irwin, R.N.

Rich, you will always be in my heart and I have felt your guidance through

this most difficult period in my life. You can rest in peace now. I love you.

Paul E. McDonald

1932 — 2000



A native of Wood County, Ohio, this debonair man-about-town suffered a massive heart attack and passed away on August 5, 2000. Inspired to dance at an early age by his beloved sister Maxine and Aunt Nell (who performed the Charleston at age 86 at the County Fair), he is fondly remembered by family and neighbors for writing songs, producing and dancing in many of his own "front porch" musicals in Ohio.

Paul did, in fact, become a professional dancer in New York. Regulars at the Sunday afternoon jazz jam sessions at The Swallow in San Francisco will remember Paul for his ready smile, wit and colorful recollections of his show biz days. In later years, he had turned to the travel business and made San Francisco his home for many years.

Recently retired, Paul was in the process of relocating to Palm Springs. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward N. and Myra V. (Neal) McDonald, two sisters, Minnie and Maxine McDonald, one brother, Gerald, and is survived by one brother, his Aunt Winnie Paulette, his niece Myra Creel, a great niece, Joanna Creel and her sons Andy and Gage, friends Mark Murphy, Kenneth Williams, Madeline Eastman, Vince Latiano, Barry Kinder and cousins, other nieces, and nephews.

Paul McDonald had style. He will be missed by many.



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Gay and lesbian hotline moves to San Francisco

by Terry Beswick

The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline, a nonprofit information, referral, and peer counseling telephone hotline that opened in New York four years ago, will open its new headquarters in San Francisco on October 1, and is looking for volunteers.

"The San Francisco Bay Area has the strongest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community anywhere in the country," said GLNH Executive Director Brad Becker, explaining the group's decision to move here. "We need local volunteers who can leverage the strength of this proud, multicultural group in order to give voice to those people here and throughout America who aren't yet strong enough to speak for themselves."

The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline offers free and anonymous services by use of a toll-free telephone number, (888) THE-GLNH (843-4564). The hotline will be in operation Mondays through Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Callers speak directly to a trained volunteer who will be able to access a national database of re-



GLNH's Brad Becker

errals specific to the gay and lesbian community.

The mission of the hotline is to provide peer counseling, information, and referrals to GLBT people, as well as others concerned with gay-related issues.

As the only national hotline of its kind in the U.S., over 100,000 calls are received annually from teens and adults in all 50 states. The hotline in New York has been staffed by about 50 volunteers.

The hotline maintains a large database containing over 17,000 listings and referrals on groups and organizations of all types (political, religious, sports, professional, etc.), and houses information on many gay-friendly businesses, restaurants, hotels, and clubs, as well as doctors, lawyers, and therapists.

"Our volunteer operators will also be able to deal not only with important AIDS information and education, but also with the stress and anxiety that many people, HIV-positive and -negative alike, are dealing with," according to the group's Web page (www.glnh.org). "Fortunately there are many resources currently available for a caller to ask a

basic AIDS question, but there are very few services for people who just need to talk about their fears and frustrations. The hotline is a place to call."

The organization is seeking volunteers of all backgrounds aged 18 or older who are good listeners, non-judgmental, and are comfortable dealing with a wide variety of calls. Particularly needed are women, people of color, and members of the transgendered community.

After participating in a training session, all volunteers will provide callers with factual information, referrals from the database, and telephone peer counseling.

"Our approach is to help each caller focus on their feelings, rather than for us to tell them how to solve their problems," Becker said. "Also, it's important to keep in mind that many of our callers have never spoken with an openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person before, so it's a huge step for them to take in calling us."

One-day volunteer training sessions are scheduled on weekends, and are ongoing now. Trainings are followed by working buddy shifts with experienced volunteers. All volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of eight hours per month.

According to Becker, a former telephone counselor with the California AIDS Hotline of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, volunteers get a lot more out of working with GLNH than doing a good deed. "Because of the nature of what we do, the people who volunteer with us tend to be incredible people," he said. "In New York, many of our volunteers have formed strong, long-term friendships, and love."

For more information about volunteering for GLNH, call its administrative office toll-free at (888) 415-3022, or send an e-mail to glnh@glnh.org.

Matt Sharp

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have made a difference for people with HIV over the last decade.

Among these were winning approval from the Food and Drug Administration for thalidomide, working on a task force to battle tuberculosis, and helping to organize Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS summit.

"I'll be taking a break for awhile," Sharp said. "I was getting kind of burned out. But I'm still going to be advocating for people with AIDS." ▼



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Flamer

by Jim Provenzano

Olympic scuttlebutt: a group of snooty right-wing drag queens, a.k.a. the Australian Council of Churches, is up in arms over the inclusion of performers impersonating female impersonators.

The cocks in frocks on rocks in question are, of course, the characters in the hit film, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, which Absolut Vodka's survey named as the most popular gay film of the 20th century, excluding the works of Al Parker.

The mainstream sports media have included a few polls asking what folks think. Most don't, from the results.

No doubt few pollsters know of an event where drag queens run the sports events; Burning Man.

I got to trek through the desert in full drag, not unlike the queens in *Priscilla*.

This is by no means a full account of my or anyone's Burning Man experience. If you want to fake that, watch *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Until the End of the World*, each of the *Star Wars*, *Road Warrior*, and *Planet of the Apes* series and a few episodes of *H.R. Puf N Stuff*—all at once.

Limiting the cultural exposition to our topic at hand—the problem of drag queens at the precious Olympics, some folks in the gay sports community are upset that the only depiction of

gay people—this being the first one—other than Greg Louganis—is that of fictional drag queens and not gay and lesbian athletes.

Well, the answer from several Olympics officials is simple. The ceremonies at the Olympics are a celebration of Australian cinema.

Don't laugh. Aussies know movies. *Walkabout*, for example.

Of course, post-Burnem, I just wish they'd also include, say, a few characters from *Road Warrior*, or even Russell Crowe in sweaty rugby gear from *The Sum of Us*.

I don't have a problem with the inclusion of drag queens in the Olympics. If we really get down to the point of queer inclusion, it's

appropriate that a transgender atop a bus with a 50 foot Isadora Duncan-esque silver train fluttering in the breeze symbolize the utterly fabulous homo aspect of Aussie culture.

Between lifeguards showing off their buttocks, a gay community with far less AIDS cases due to smart government-sponsored safe sex campaigns, and the immensely queer Mardi Gras, it's obvious that a grand party awaits us all in '02 for Gay Games VI.

The problem is there is no depiction of out lesbian and gay athletes. A recent Olympics.com piece on Gay Games used pictures of drag queens at Mardi Gras and not a single athlete, gay or not.

This is stupid and lazy work on the part of both the Olympics, its editor, and Gay Games VI, which should be pumping out pictures of



Faggots to burn: Priscillian dragsters take the heat in Sydney and at Burning Man.

GLBT athletes by now, not circuit queens in silver lamé jump suits.

My Safeway purchase of *Olympics USA Salutes Our Athletes* includes David Pichler, but no mention of his having a male partner. Not crucial info in a 50-word bio, but either the editors didn't know, didn't care, or deliberately chose to exclude his gayness from the article.

This leaves the hundreds of thousands of GLBTQ kids reading Mommy's checkout-line impulse purchase devoid of what could have been a gay-friendly moment, letting them know that not only can queers don fabulous frocks, but simple Speedos.

And ABC, NBC, ESPN1, 2, and 3 are even worse. If you think they're going to mention the al-

next page ►

Olympic do caucus

by Jim Provenzano

To get a more serious interpretation of the controversy surrounding over 20 drag performers being included at the ceremonies of the 2000 Olympics, the right wing reaction, and the reaction in the GLBT sports community, the *Bay Area Reporter* e-mailed interviewed Jennifer Wilson, who is on the board of Mardi Gras, primarily working on strategic and organizational policy issues.

Wilson also represents Mardi Gras on the Federation of Gay Games and with Sydney 2002/Gay Games VI, and sits on several committees, and joked that, "My involvement with the Olympics has been to laugh at the signs that warn us about overseas pedestrians being about!"

B.A.R.: There's been a lot of lesbian and gay input into the 2000 Olympics; officials, volunteers, and administrators.

Wilson: There are a number of lesbians and gay men who have helped out in a variety of ways with the Olympics. From director of the Parade of Athletes (Mardi Gras' Parade Producer, Kathy Pavlich) to various participants in the opening and closing ceremony, many athletes (some out, some not so out) and to organizers of other events or other elements of events. As well as the "sports carnival," there is the Olympic Arts Festival, which, like many other artistic events, has a strong presence of lesbians and gay men. The general manager of the Olympics Arts Festival, Craig Hassell, was on Mardi Gras' board last year. Many of the artists partaking in the festival are openly gay themselves.

B.A.R.: A recent Olympics.com article about Gay Games VI showed only pictures from Gay Mardi Gras. Do you think this is problematic?

Wilson: Many of the images used by Gay Games VI have been supplied by Mardi Gras for use by them. In turn, these are probably the images picked up by Olympics.com. Certainly, the life and color of Mardi Gras often makes for great, marketable images of lesbians and gay men—even if occasionally a little stereotypical.

B.A.R.: Do depictions of party costumes and drag further the goals of gay and lesbian athletics, who rarely get any media exposure, or simply promote parties?

Wilson: I think this is a harder question and I think there is no clear answer. A better question might be "Does the depiction of different lifestyles and different relationships further awareness of difference and increase tolerance?" And in this case, it's much easier to say that showing images outside the "nuclear family" norm probably is to the benefit of all discriminated people. Does it help LGBT athletics? Possibly, by fostering an atmosphere that is more accepting of difference and thus more conducive to coming out or simply being comfortable that one is acceptable.

B.A.R.: There was equal controversy about this at Gay Games V and the mainstream media's continuous depiction of body-painted go-go boys on barges and at street parties, but very little actual footage of athletes competing, even in the "official" Gay Games video. Will this be the case in Sydney?

Wilson: Similarly if you look at the images chosen by the media to portray Mardi Gras, there is an over-representation of drag queens and bare tits-and-asses. A huge percentage of our floats on parade night are from religious groups showing their support, political lesbian and gay endeavors, and local gay groups having their night on the town. The press wants clichéd images that say the same thing everywhere—and hence the drag queen images. Was Gay Games V simply a canal parade? No! It was a vibrant sports and cultural festival that showed how many ways we can celebrate who we are. But there's a huge difference between this reality and the easy images that media pick on.

B.A.R.: While gay pride celebrations are about festivity, many people I've interviewed in the sports community are frustrated by this, even though *Priscilla* is a great movie.

Wilson: It is important to remember that the element in the closing ceremony we are talking about is an homage to a film, *Priscilla*. While many of us who saw the film didn't see ourselves and our lives represented in it, this is true of just about all films. That doesn't mean that the *Priscilla* element should be changed to be a promotion piece for the lesbian and gay community. There is likely to be a *Babe* float paying homage to this film and its part in the renaissance of Australian film, but there would be very little outcry from animal activists that this showed a biased view of animals (they're not all pigs, you know. Not all animals are pink!). It is important to not expect to see ourselves represented by the *Priscilla* float.

Having said that, as a community we should be saddened by how unrecognized we have been in this very straight sports festival! While personal biographies in programs are here for all to read (and we hope they all do), the bigger picture of the support, the volunteers, the experience (especially from Mardi Gras) and the people is not being overtly recognized.

I'd love to see the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) officially thank Mardi Gras for pre-training most of their staff and volunteers over years of fabulous parades and festivals, but it is unlikely. Even the Olympic city guide initially didn't mention Oxford Street as a gay area (they referred to it as an "eating precinct"). In this invisibility, this is where there is an effect on lesbian and gay athletes, by maintaining the idea that gay is not to be spoken about, is wrong. More talented young people afraid to come out because of the messages reinforced to them by media, and by the Olympics in their silence. ▼

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AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephen Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and untested gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland. (510) 663-7979

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail lchoi415@aol.com

Breast Cancer Action
Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Cancer Support Group
Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info call Brian at 422-2137.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: Gay's men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register. 292-1521.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming to support group for women
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Coming to support group for men
Meets Weds., 5:30-7pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Himm, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence
Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers
Reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Gay and lesbian Jewish synagogue. Services every Friday at 8:15pm. 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. 861-6932.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every: Wed, 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat, 9pm, and Sun, 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Dimensions
Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQQ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Full Circle Community Counseling
We offer low-cost services which support, encourage, and challenge people to realize their unlimited potential. Take the step to go beyond the pain of your past to experience the freedom of who you really are. Offices in SF and the East Bay. 255-0100.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay Greeks
Support/social group for Greek-American gays and lesbians. Meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month. Call 551-1688 for location and time.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project
Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists
Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay Men's Meditation Group
Yoga philosophy, silent meditation, discussion of integrating sexuality with spirituality. Free. Sundays, 4pm. Call 431-7575.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic
Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun. 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Hepatitis B Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf
Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199, 1853 Market St.

HIVCare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group
Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1:20-3pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1534.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group
Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10am-12:30pm. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Iris Center
Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, now free. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit
Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lesbian Social Group
For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/Sol. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

Lesbian Support Groups
On mental health issues: peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

Lesbians with Cancer
12-week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center
Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School
Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Maitri Residential Care
For people disabled by HIV requiring 24-hour medical care. For info or to volunteer, call 558-3000.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality
Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

Medical Cannabis Delivery System
Serves homebound and ambulatory patients in SF and the East Bay. Fax, 255-7489. 2261 Market, #478, SF 94114. 436-9648.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Molested Boys
"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

Mothers Organizing Mothers
Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 422-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

Movement and Voice
Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

MWM
A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market. Suite 400. 227-0946.

National Association of People With AIDS Fax
Fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA Fax: (202) 789-2222.

New Leaf
Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTline
Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center
Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Planetree Health Resource Center
Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings and health book-store. Also support groups.

Health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

The Positive Center
Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Resource Center
Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

Project HOPE
Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bi-sexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource
Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: prc@inter.net.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

Psychic Horizons
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWA Long-Term Survivors
Support group for men: small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2427.

QI for Gay Health
\$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center
Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women
Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Sex Workers
St. James Infirmary, every Wednesday 6-9pm at City Clinic, 7th and Folsom. Free, non-judgmental health care for sex workers. Mer's support group at 7pm on first Wednesday. (415) 554-8494.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous
One-hour drop-in 12-step meetings for sexually compulsive men and women every Monday, 7:15pm; Tuesday, 6pm; Friday, 6:30pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market. For info, www.sca-recovery.org or (800) 977-HEAL.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
City Clinic provides free or low cost confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-4pm, Tuesday from 1-6pm, and Thursday from 1-4pm.

Shanti
Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Shanti's El Programa Latino
Provides emotional and peer counseling and practical support to Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. For more information, call 674-4700.

STD Check-ups
Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. 8low Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center
Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Survive AIDS
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

Tambayan
Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transgressors in Transition
Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center
Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgender Support Group
Multiracial drop group every first Monday of month, 6:30pm. Call Adela Holaday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project
Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Unity Project
A UCSF study for people living with HIV. Share your experiences as they relate to your health and well-being including stress and coping, problem solving, risk reduction, etc. Participants must be 18 years or older. Cash for eligible participants. Call (415) 597-4669.

We Care Bay Area
Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS & other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Women's Cancer Resource Center
Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

most half a dozen openly gay folk participating at the Olympics, think again.

That's why some people are ticked off that the only gay depiction at the Olympics 2K, like most of the coverage of the last Gay Games, is of partying drunkards, costumed revelers and drug-addled freaks.

Which brings me to Burning Man's sports events!

Playa as it lays

It took a drag queen to get me to Burning Man.

Former club fabulante Ggreg Taylor's MASHcara welcomed me and over a hundred others to his camp. With a safe space to set up our tents and socialize, setting out each day for new adventures on the vast open space of the Nevada desert near the quaint town of Gerlach became increasingly special.

If you haven't heard, along with camp and camping, Burning Man features outdoor art out the wazoo.

A trapeze swing hanging inside a steel sculpture shaped like a giant rib cage became a swing set for a few boys eager to kick an inflatable six-foot dinosaur. They hung about without a care, inspiring less agile adults to enjoy it as well.

Death Guild's ever-popular Thunderdome (Buckminster Fuller meets Mister S) featured athletic events of a staged combatable sort. While a fellow wrestler and I had intimations of volunteering for a match, we'd not packed the requisite Dome gear. Next year, perhaps.

By night, the big art-cluttered playground became a zooming field of glowing bikes. Rising through, in and around impromptu sculptures became a triathlon of an entirely different sort. Instead of whoever got there first, the winners were those who enjoyed it the most.

Stamina was equally required for the trampolines at one theme camp. Dancing for hours on end after the big burn also burned calories. Fortunately my small herd of partiers packed water and munchies.

Flaming bocci balls

Fifty giggling people whose faces were blocked by darkness or night-glow tubes played soccer with flaming balls, created by one of hundreds of anonymous combustible artists.

We kicked the orange glowing globes around the playa in what was the most exciting and silly match of my life. The fear of burning clothes became irrelevant, as my flame-retardant white jeans had been hand-painted with tributary flames that day.

As the balls shrunk from burnoff, it became more of a bocci match, then a spritely hackey-sack game, until the flaming balls integrated into mere sparks, dolefully crushed by the remaining players. A more joyful, and strangely lit, game of sport I have never experienced. It was beyond an X Game. It was a Y Game, or perhaps a Y Not.

It took a drag queen to get me off my ass and enjoy this. It took a drag queen to publish the alternative newspaper of the playa that deftly dissed the destructive elements encroaching on this rare

and fragile cultural event.

Having raced through the desert with drag queens, having found The Zone amid a cluster of thousands of authentically freaky folk, having spied several noticeable CEOs of corporations posing as cool raver types while knowing full well that they were the people being exorcised at the Burn, I can say with calloused fingers, gypsum-filled lungs, atop an alkali-encrusted mountain bike, that yes, drag queens are integral to any full scale sports spectacle.

If the straight-acting gay and lesbian jocks of the Olympics want to get better representation, they should speak to the hundreds of GLBT volunteers and administrators who are making this event happen.

Almost a hundred years after its rebirth from the Greek days, after countless witch-burnings and desecrations of gender variant pre-Christian gods and goddesses, shamans and dragsters are still an essential part of our culture, even in the sports arena. They make things happen and take the slings and arrows the Aberzombies can't

bear.

If assimilationist jocks want more media time, they should get better publicists. In the meantime, the cameras will always focus on all that glitter.

"I had a dream," said one of the queens in *Priscilla*. His dream was to walk atop a mountain in the outback in full drag. He lived it.

Mine was a dream in childhood, of strange glowing creatures, neon fish, lasers and music, movie creatures and exploding metal dragons.

It took a drag queen to bring this dream to life. Thanks to all of you.

Oh, and to the boys who wanted the six-foot inflatable dinosaur, it's waiting for you. And I fixed the holes with duct tape. ▼

Jim Provenzano will be talking about PINS, his novel about gay high school wrestlers, this Sunday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m., on Alan Farley's Book Talk on KALW 91.7 FM. Info: (415) 841-4121 or visit www.myrmidude.com.

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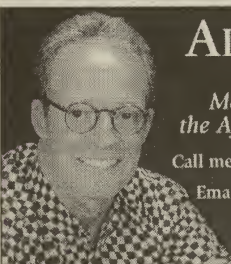
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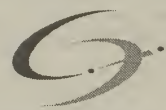
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 242824

The following person(s) are doing business as New Pickle Circus 775 Frederick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation not profit, signed Patrick Osborn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/15/2000.

AUGUST 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 14, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 314657

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Allyson Meredith Kirk. For Change of Name. The application of Allyson Meredith Kirk, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Allyson Meredith Kirk, has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Ally Wray-Kirk. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of October 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUGUST 31, SEPT 7, 14, 21 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 314656

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Paula Wraychelle Wingert. For Change of Name. The application of Paula Wraychelle Wingert, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paula Wraychelle Wingert, has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Spike Wray-Kirk. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of October 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUGUST 31, SEPT 7, 14, 21 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 243258

The following person(s) are doing business as San Francisco Bicycle Ballet, Bicycle Ballet, 655 #B Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Carla Jean Laser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 9/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/15/2000.

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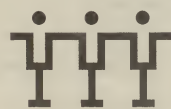
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page 31

Playing Hans Christian
Gay actor John Glover
opens new ACT season.
page 40



Home on the fringe
'Backstage' surveys 2000
San Francisco Fringe Fest.
page 41



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 36 • 7 September 2000



Every which way and loose

Comics artist John Blackburn's
showboy Coley Cochran by John F. Karr

Can you name the malady that's pronounced just like colitis, but which inflames a much more entertaining set of organs? It's Coleytis, and I've had a crazy case ever since 1992, when the adventures of *Coley: Bayou Boy* began appearing in the *Meatmen* comic anthologies.

Coley Cochran is a striking 19-year-old Southern boy, with a fashion model's mane of blond tresses, a wasp waist cinching a muscular yet lithesome physique, and a cock of prodigious proportion and most perfect form. Lost on a Caribbean island as a youth, Coley underwent bizarre voodoo rituals that have turned him into a sex god. He is both possessed by his extreme sexuality, and obsessed with it. He's an fervent narcissist and a flagrant exhibitionist. He has a femininity that's more Amazon than sissy, and a masculinity that's aggressively butch. This studboy is a real provocateur, who lives flamboyantly and courts danger. Murder, suicide and diabolical plotting follow his wake, as well as conflagrations of both architecture and emotion.

Coley's black magic sex adventures offer equal opportunity ensnarement to male and female, straight and gay: to the students of a life-drawing class, the passengers of a public bus, or the erstwhile innocent bystanders of any number of street corners or bars where Coley is compelled to strut his stuff atop curbstones or pool tables. His lust is so sincere that it always carries

true love, and he knows no boundaries. He has sex with a priest, with a brother and sister, with his own brother, and even with his mother and father. A willing slave to the most fiendishly kinky SM, Coley's been spread-eagled every which way, strung up with fish hooks through his dick, and repeatedly crucified. His tales end with shocking finales of crazed executions, demonic ritual, and human sacrifice. Throughout it all, Coley is at first insouciant, and then as his mojo gets working, devil-may-care. You've never seen such abandon. And all of this is acutely drawn in bold, highly energized and strikingly clean lines.

Lost weekend

My only complaint with the *Meatmen* episodes was that they were fairly brief. Like anyone inflamed, I wanted more. Then, while browsing through the treasure troves of used erotica at The Magazine, I stumbled across *Coley Running Wild*. Not one, but three full-length Coley graphic novels, published by Eros Comix. Trembling, I hustled them home, and into the lost weekend of a 400-page Coley orgy. When I finally broke free of Coley's consuming spell, I thought to myself, "Who writes this stuff?"

My inquiry led me to John Blackburn, a quiet-spoken gentleman of 60 who leads a modest life as the proprietor of a framing shop and art gallery in West Hollywood, where he's lived for several decades with his companion and the pet tropical birds he dotes upon. Nonetheless, John Blackburn shares some of

page 351 ►

Naked as they wanna be

Theatre Rhino takes it all off by Richard Dodds

The promise of nudity in *Naked Boys Singing!* obviously sells a lot of tickets. But it's a title that can also be a turnoff to those who lump the show in with those nudie shows featuring porn stars as momentary thespians.

F. Allen Sawyer, who's directing the San Francisco production of the long-running New York hit, found out first-hand how a title like *Naked Boys Singing!* can be a double-edged sword.

"The producers flew me to New York to see the show, and I went three times," Sawyer said recently. "They gave me a pair of tickets

each time, and I called my snooty New York actor friends and I'd say, 'Hey, I've got free tickets.' And not one of them had seen the show, and all of them were disdainful of it. There's almost a backlash. People who may be big musical theater queens can get turned off by the title, but when they accompanied me, they were charmed and converted."

Theatre Rhino is opening its 23rd season this week with *Naked Boys Singing!*, hoping that tickets sales will help underwrite later productions that may be less commercially alluring. The show itself was first conceived as a blatant ploy to rescue a struggling gay

page 34 ►

The cast of
Naked Boys Singing!



Kent Taylor

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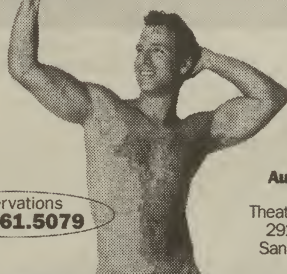
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by Roberto Friedman
and the Dean's List

Back to school: *The Princeton Review's* annual college rankings, based on a survey of 59,000 students, have just been published in their 2001 edition. *The Best 331 Colleges*. Out There is amused to find that #1 on the list of the places where **Gay Community** [is] **Most Accepted** is (drumroll, please) Pitzer College, in lovely Claremont, CA. New York University does come in a close second, but of course NYU doesn't have the name recognition of dear old Pitzer.

Also on the list of "Gay Community Accepted" campuses: Smith, Mount Holyoke, Sarah Lawrence and Vassar. Well, the Seven Sisters have always had their share of sisters of the male persuasion, and we know plenty of guys who were Vassar girls.

Tops (or bottoms) on the "Most Accepted" list's evil twin, the list of places where **Alternative Lifestyle** [is] **Not an Alternative**: University of Notre Dame, in that hotbed of intolerance, South Bend, IN; Boston College; and Denison University in Granville, OH. Also on this list of shame: Duke, Johns Hopkins, and Holy Cross.

Fully booked

The advent of the fall season means different things to different folks. For Out There, the thrill of the new largely consists of curling up with a stack of the fall catalogs from major publishing houses. We're excited about new book releases long before we actually have them in our hot little hands; think of it as extended foreplay.

This year, the books we've checked off in our catalogs fall into two distinct categories of anticipation: visual and verbal.

Among the novels we're certain to read for their verbal dexterity is *How the Dead Live*, from the wicked and brilliant British satirist **Will Self** (Grove).

Not only did he write *Green Eggs and Ham*, he had a political consciousness, too: Verso brings out *Dr. Seuss Goes to War*, a collection of the WWII editorial cartoons of **Theodor Seuss Geisel**, by **Richard H. Minear**, and with an introduction by *Maus* cartoonist **Art Spiegelman**.

The university presses always contribute their fair share to the burgeoning gay literature. This fall, Duke publishes **Margaret Mead** *Made Me Gay*, essays by pioneering lesbian cultural anthropologist **Esther Newton**. Columbia has **Richard Canning's** *Gay Fiction Speaks*, conversations with gay novelists including **James Purdy**, **John Rechy** and **Andrew Holleran**.

Then there are those books we judge, at this distance, by their cover: for instance, *Peek, Photographs from the Kinsey Institute*, a compilation of sexual and erotic imagery never previously published from **Alfred C. Kinsey's** researches (Arena Editions). Or

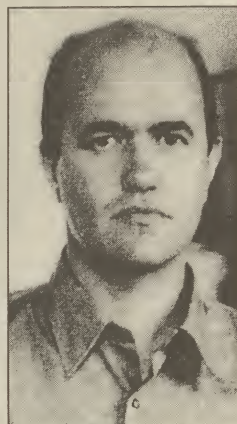
rather revealing pose in Alaïa's eponymous volume from Steidl. **Jonas Mekas' Just like a shadow**, from the same source, has a candid series of pictures of **John Lennon & Yoko Ono**.

Boystown: la Zona de Tolerancia is composed of slice-of-life photos from border-town brotherhoods where Texas meets Mexico (Aperture); and then there's *Extreme Canvas*, homemade movie poster paintings from Ghana (DAP) — the commentators include **Clive Barker**, **Anjelica Houston** and **Gus Van Sant**.

Irish master

Three of the most memorable

reads we've had so far this year are novels that center on AIDS deaths: **Edmund White's The Married Man** (Knopf), **Brian Bouldrey's Love, the Magician** (Harrington Park Press), and **Colm Tóibín's**



Author Colm Tóibín

The Blackwater Lightship (Scribner). As a group, they show that some of our best gay novelists (or "novelists who happen to be gay," for the faint of heart) know that AIDS is still with us, front and center in fact.

We came to Irish author Tóibín's fourth novel by a circuitous route, happening across a chapter from his *The Heather Blazing* in the new anthology *Circa 2000: Gay Fiction at the Millennium*, edited by **Robert Drake** and **Terry Wolverton**. The choice of this excerpt from *Heather* puzzled us, since the book is circa 1992 and does not concern gay relationships.

But it reminded us of what a glorious read *The Story of the Night* (Henry Holt), Tóibín's third novel and winner of the '98 **Ferro-Grumley Award**, had been: a tale of a young man's awakening to his gay sexuality, set against international intrigue and the coming to power of the military junta in Argentina.

Blackwater Lightship, which was shortlisted for last year's Booker Prize, returns to Ireland, specifically the Irish coast, and to little villages like Cush and Curraclloe — the setting of most of *Heather Blazing* as well. Helen, her mother Lily and her grandmother Dora have brought brother, son and grandson Declan, gravely ill with AIDS, to Dora's house by the cliffs of the sea. It's likely that this is the end.

Declan's gay friends Larry and Paul are in the house for the duration, too; they know a lot more than the relations about Declan's disease and, in fact, about the man Declan has become. It's a powerful book, not sentimental at all, and further proof of Tóibín's mastery. ▼



Men's Show, in which we find NYC society photographer **Patrick McMullan** snapping pics behind the scenes of fashion shows just crawling with male models (Abbeville).

Consider *In the Flesh: The Body Cult in Brazil*, photographs by **Christopher Pillitz**; sometimes the catalog copy is titillating enough! "Brazil," says Pillitz, "is a country of uninhibited sensuality, devoid of taboos. Its chaos, its lawlessness and violence are inseparably related to its obsession with sex." Yowza!

Tunisian-born **Azzedine Alaïa** captures fellow photog **Bruce Weber** in an uninhibited and



Alaïa's portrait of Bruce Weber

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FILM

Fassbinder territory

'Water Drops on Burning Rocks' opens

by Gary Morris

Water Drops on Burning Rocks was Fassbinder's first play, written at age 19. Shelved and apparently forgotten, it was discovered among his papers after his death, and languished until French director François Ozon (*Sitcom*) decided to film it. Apparently, the prolific Fassbinder never wanted it produced, either as play or film, because it was too personal, based on a scandalous real-life relationship he had with an older man. It's hard to imagine the flamboyant Fassbinder being so skittish about a potential sex scandal, but true or not, it makes watching the filmed version all the more enticing.

There are only two men in this four-person play, 50-year-old salesman Leo and his 20-year-old boytoy Franz. It's not entirely clear even by the end of this fascinating film which one is supposed to represent Fassbinder, though it has the very personal feel of autobiography, however dressed up or disguised.

In spite of the author's youth, it's a surprisingly mature work touching on themes of interpersonal exploitation, and resonating with the peculiar mix of angst and biting black comedy seen in later works like *Fox and His Friends*.

From the opening credits, it's clear that we're in Fassbinder territory. Cliché romantic French accordion music plays behind a montage of sunny, sterile travel

Malik Zidi and Bernard Giraudeau in *Water Drops on Burning Rocks*

postcards, portending the world of bourgeois fakery to come. *Water Drops* is a nasty little chamber play with a sweet surface à la *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*, with the same sense of peering into one of the colder corners of petit bourgeois life. Director Ozon keeps the story true to the time, setting the action in a single space, Leo's sleek apartment dolled up in high '70s style, complete with shag area rug.

Innocence lost

Divided into four acts, the story opens with jaded Leo sizing up Franz, fishing for compliments ("But physically, don't I look

much younger?"), flirting ("Room size doesn't matter, it's the bed that counts"), and hinting at a darker side ("Playing games helps you know people") that will eventually dominate the lives of Franz and the two women who appear later. Franz, on the other hand, is a sensitive soul, an artistic youth interested more in "books, theatre, art in general" than in sex. Of course, Leo is thrilled at the chance to shred such innocence. He convinces the wavering Franz that he's a closet case, and Franz almost offhandedly agrees to go to bed with him.

Leo has looks and money,

next page ►

Sinister seductions

Falling for François Ozon

by David Lample

At a time when French films aren't even popular with the French, a new cinema savior beckons. François Ozon is here with two films playing simultaneously on both sides of town. While their creator may appear cute, with a pronounced tendency to showcase the hairless chests of skittish teenage lads, don't be fooled: his characters are more than eye candy. You may recoil from their behavior, but look more closely and you'll find a piece of yourself rather nakedly up there on the screen.

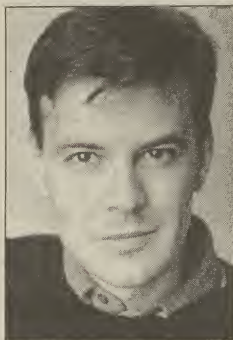
In the opening of Ozon's twisted fairy tale *Criminal Lovers*, a high school girl lures her impotent boyfriend up to her room for a sexy striptease. Alice whispers to Luc that she has been abused by another boy—a muscular Algerian, a boxer, the boy she really lusts for. "We will kill Said. I seduce him. You come in. You kill him. We take off for the forest. We bury his body." Our teenage killers haven't got a shovel, so they buy one at the mall. Alice teases Luc at the checkout counter, "You must be happy. You said nothing ever happens to us. For once something has happened!"

Having seduced us to expect Oliver Stone, Ozon switches gears and gives us the Brothers Grimm: our not-so-sweet children are lost in the woods. Finding a rowboat, they drift down a river. Suddenly a cabin appears, only it's actually

a trap. Luc and Alice have become prey for a woodsman who likes his girls skinny and his boys plump.

Criminal Lovers splices the American gangster movie with that most pessimistic of all art forms, the European fairy tale. Ozon gets to turn the tables on his young outlaws and allows the audience to empathize with their plight, using a healthy dose of voyeurism to shed light on the shifting power relationships between Alice, Luc and the Woodsman.

Next, Ozon discovered a dark
page 45 ►



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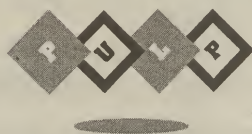
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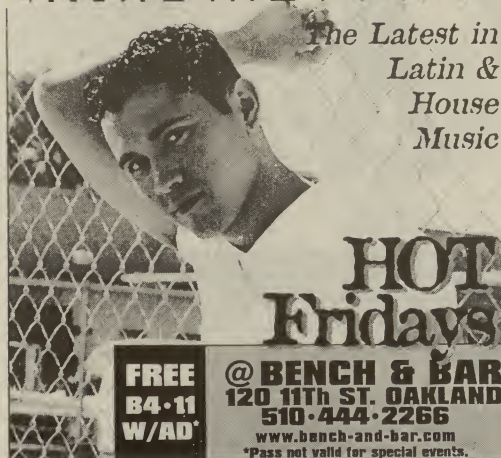
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Peronistas revisited

SF Camerata Americana's 'Corpus Evita'

by Stephanie von Buchau

It takes a certain amount of nerves—or cluelessness—to write an opera with “Evita” in the title, and to open the piece with the ailing Eva Perón addressing her people from the balcony of the Casa Rosada. Unless you’ve been living in outer space for 25 years, you immediately expect the blonde soprano to sing, “Don’t Cry for Me, Argentina.”

Whatever Tim Rice’s epigrammatic lyrics may mean, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s tune is one of the most memorable of the last quarter of the 20th century. The rest of their opera is musically memorable, too. There is nothing in *Corpus Evita*, a new work by composer Carlos Franzetti and librettist José Luis Moscovich, that matches that memorable Lloyd Webber anthem, yet at Saturday’s world premiere at Yerba Buena Center, the new opera proved more interesting than “just a good try.”

It isn’t exactly tuneful, though the music is tonal and easy on the ears; the vocal line most of the time is that typically amorphous one note-to-one syllable style of modern opera composition. And the piece is a big, ambitious, dramatic mess, not able to settle on which Perón wife is its heroine. Yet production and execution were first-class, with superb singing from a well-chosen cast and an accomplished chorus, all accompanied by the professional San Francisco Camerata Americana, conducted by Moscovich. Impressively buried in the dramatic confusion was enough powerful music theater to make one wish for a complete re-writing.

I think the confusions of *Corpus Evita* arise from the situation of Moscovich and Lorenz Russo, credited with “the concept.” I have no knowledge of the background of these artists, or of composer Franzetti, but since the Camerata founded by Moscovich is dedicated to playing and promoting Latin American music, I suspect that all three men (and probably some in the orchestra and chorus) are personally connected to Argentina’s cataclysmic political upheavals: Evita’s charisma and treachery;



Eva (Evita) Perón

Perón’s naive attempt to revive the cult of Evita with his next wife, Isabel (whose tenure as Argentina’s president following Perón’s death led directly to what Moscovich calls “the military’s dirty war against Argentina’s own people”); and finally, the *desaparecidos* (“the disappeared”), those ghosts of repression, torture and murder who still haunt Argentina today.

Maybe the creators are just too close to the subject and feel too passionately about it to apply the measured objectivity that true art (as opposed to polemic) requires. Act I, for instance, ends with a grisly scene—powerfully staged by Daniel Helfgot—of torture by electrodes that symbolizes Argentina’s “30,000 dead.” Very realistic, but unprepared for musically or dramatically, so that the act ends in eye-popping horror, not always the best way to raise the audience’s conscience; it’s just as likely to send them fleeing into the night.

Alive and dead

Moscovich’s convoluted dramatic structure involves the real Evita (Marta Johansen, an Evita lookalike with a high soprano voice), her ghost “Corpus Evita” (Lisa Houston, an expressive mezzo-soprano), and Isabel (Eileen Morris, a lyric soprano). The real Evita opens and closes the opera and appears at a ball with Perón (John Minagro, who has something of Perón’s swaggering sex appeal and a cavernous

bass voice), while her ghost harangues the Doctor (Carl King) applying cosmetics to the body that Isabel has ordered returned to Buenos Aires. The music for mezzo-soprano is easiest to understand; Franzetti’s high-lying vocal lines often made diction undecipherable.

The opera’s most striking character, Minister of Social Welfare José López Rega (John Swenson), argues with the Doctor and Evita’s ghost. A lot of political ground between the ‘50s and the ‘70s is covered in a few unintelligible sentences. We are into the fourth scene before Isabel, the opera’s one fully-rounded human being, is introduced. Morris creates a believable character, passionately female but morally weak. She looks remarkably like Isabel (perhaps as portrayed by Sharon Stone), and her acting is as subtle as her singing. With this scene, in which the Rasputin-like López Rega tries to control Isabel, the opera suddenly lurches into focus.

That scene segues into the opera’s most entertaining sequence, a séance at which López Rega conjures up the dead Perón and Evita at a ball to show Isabel the purposes of power. It even has moments of much-needed humor. Granted, a lot of the success was due to Swenson’s body language and high, plangent tenor (he’d make a great Mime) and to Houston’s feminine sincerity, but these two scenes struck me as totally engrossing musically and dramatically, underlining the need to stay with Isabel and let the mythical Evita go.

Yet it was obvious that political needs were driving this piece as much as artistic ones. The final scene, despite some marvelous choral writing, ends up as a paean to Evita—something that politically-conscious Americans find hard to swallow. Yet the women behind me were sobbing by the end of the opera. So *Corpus Evita* has a place and a purpose. It’s just that some of it was so close to remarkable that I wished it had more universal appeal. Besides, we might as well face it. Nobody is going to improve on Lloyd Webber, so why set yourself up for that comparison? ▼

Water Drops

◀ previous page

which translate into power, and Franz is quickly hooked. One of the film’s most poetic moments occurs when Franz describes a dream he had about his mother’s boyfriend making love to him. “He entered me like a girl,” he says wistfully. Leo takes advantage of Franz’s willingness to bare his private thoughts and quickly maneuvers him into submission. Franz forgets his girlfriend Anna entirely, moves in, and increasingly follows Franz’s bitchy commands. Soon Franz the thoughtful, striving artist is reborn as one of Fassbinder’s classic oppressed wife-figures (think Irm Therman in *Bitter Tears*). He’s pathetic in his acceptance of Leo’s nastiest moods as the price of getting the older man’s dick up his ass. Any sign of personality is swiftly met by Leo’s stern voice, and Franz increasingly retreats into a robotlike existence of sexual accommodation and domestic servitude. Fassbinder’s horror of middle-class

domesticity was in place early, here evident in Leo’s railings against Franz’s inferior floor-waxing strategies, his “noisy shoes,” and his failure to return a record to its sleeve.

Leo’s fascination with ruining Franz’s innocence eventually wanes as the process is complete. Franz tries to move out, but in the film’s masochistic *mise en scène*, this is of course impossible. The apartment is Leo’s game space, through which he can move the human players according to his whim, but it’s also Franz’s tomb. (This recalls Fassbinder’s interest in director Douglas Sirk, who in films like *All That Heaven Allows* and *There’s Always Tomorrow* trapped his characters in sleek bourgeois homes from which they seemingly could never escape.) Leo’s masterful game-playing resurfaces as Franz declines, in a surprising heterosexual appropriation that shows gender is a secondary concern in the exercise of power. Franz recognizes this when he laments, “Fresh flesh wins out.” The eleventh-hour arrival of Vera, another of Leo’s victims, extends

the range of Leo’s cruelty and gives Franz a friend to briefly bond with. The ending prefigures that of *Fox and His Friends*, with even death disrespected.

Director Ozon is faithful to Fassbinder’s vision while introducing personal touches in the staging that make this a true collaboration. He captures the nuances of Franz’s almost silent suffering in evocative close-ups, and formalizes his status as a prisoner in this plush space by framing him in the window. Ozon’s camera is dispassionate in recording these horrors, the simple framing making the grim action all the more powerful. Best of all is the acting, particularly Bernard Giraudeau as the almost casually evil Leo and Malik Zidi as the naïf Franz. Fassbinder can arguably be found in both these characters. Franz is a dead ringer for the director’s romantic, hopeful side that Leo, the cynic, can’t resist crushing. ▼

Water Drops on Burning Rocks
opens Friday at the Castro Theatre.

FILM

Arabian nights (and days)

4th Annual Arab Film Festival, 'Cinemayaat' at the Roxie

by Gary Morris

The myth of the monolith dies hard. To the Western mind, the word "Arab" is still interchangeable with "terrorist," and "Arabia" conjures up a cornucopia of negative images, from the playboy princes of the oil-rich countries to the "holy wars" that allegedly plague the region to the alleged economic and cultural backwardness that keeps these countries down. Ali Baba fantasies and images of desert adventures à la T. E. Lawrence have also been instrumental in replacing the reality of complex Arab histories and cultures. Of course, it's easy to get away with destroying a region, as the US has done in Iraq, if it's already been stripped of its humanity and complexity.

Still, there are pockets of resistance, and cinema has proven one of the most crucial. An event like Cinemayaat, the annual Arab Film Festival, challenges the myth of the Arab world as a monolith. This year's fest, which plays the Roxie Sept. 7-9, is a strong mix of the personal and the political — not surprising, given the vast upheavals in the region — from the displacement of the Palestinians to the continued pathology of the bombing of Iraq to the endless search for identity in the diaspora. The festival balances this approach with some upbeat works, not least among them *Flirtation of Girls*, a 1949 musical comedy from Egypt. There are over two dozen features, shorts, and documentaries in the fest; this article will touch on a few of the highlights.

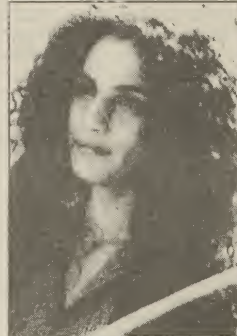
Kasim Abid's *Naji Al-Ali: An Artist with Vision* buries the myth that the Palestinians speak with the single voice of the PLO. This incisive bio of the Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al-Ali ends with his murder, still unsolved but presumably due to established inter-

ests reacting to his slashing critiques of the PLO, which he saw as corrupt and self-serving.

"I'm biased and I don't deny it," Al-Ali once said, but the bias was humanist. Politicized from a young age — he was deported from Palestine in the late '40s when it was seized by Israel, and he was raised in dire poverty in the refugee camps — he found solace in his artistic ability. He would perfect his style of visual agitprop early, "simplicity which was intuitive and deadly," as one critic said. His most powerful motif was the placement of a small boy in the cartoons, his back always to the viewer as he faced some cataclysmic horror. Interviews with those who knew him, including his widow, along with archival footage and a selection of his cartoons, paint an unforgettable picture of this gifted man, whose work stands with the best of the century.

Grim events

Nizar Hassan is a well-known documentarian with a subtly hectoring style that eventually strips the defenses of his subjects. In *Yasmin*, he interviews a Palestinian woman in prison for helping her brother murder their sister, 15-



From Nizar Hassan's *Yasmin*



From Aysha Ghazoul's *My American Grandmother*

year-old Amil, who ran off with an older Druse man. Hassan asks the same question repeatedly even when he's been answered, eliciting always more information until Yasmin describes the grim events surrounding her sister's death. The interrogation takes in other participants, including the detective who worked on the case, but Hassan shifts the focus throughout to the broader issues of male-female relations. This yields some disturbing insights, as when Yasmin's mother tells her, "Do you think I married your father out of love?"

Economic necessity converges with a lethal form of patriarchy for village families, though the film of-

fers hope for escape in the form of a model who fled to the city. *Yasmin* is built around a poetic motif, Yasmin's search for her sister's grave. Like many Palestinian women living in straitened circumstances, she's missing, even in death.

An unusual family is at the center of *My American Grandmother*. Filmmaker Aysha Ghazoul, an Iraqi-American, interviews her grandmother, a Texas ex-showgirl named Dorothy, to try to find the connections between these very disparate cultures. Her grandmother married an Iraqi pilot and lived in Baghdad for several years. Open and even excited at the prospect of

being in the spotlight again, Dorothy becomes increasingly petulant and intransigent as Aysha tries to penetrate a history that Dorothy will only offer on her own terms. Ghazoul's leftist political leanings, particularly her objections to US bombing of Iraq, become the source of several unfortunate encounters. The old lady's ribald tales of life on the show circuit in the '30s and '40s — and especially her life as the queen in a hive of gay dancers and performers — are fleshed out with home movies and photos, including rare images from Iraq.

On a happier note is Anwar Wagdi's *Flirtation of Girls*. This musical comedy features several of the stars of that period (including the legendary singer Mohamed Abdul Wahab and his orchestra), offering a privileged glimpse into a long-vanished era. The film stars Egypt's then most famous comedian, Naguib el Rihani. He plays "Mr. Pigeon," a buffoonish, slightly deluded professor of Arabic hired to teach the language to the local pasha's daughter, Leila (noted Arabic singer Leila Murad). Of course, Leila prefers singing and dancing and flirting to lessons, and poor Pigeon falls under her spell. Much comic confusion ensues, including a wonderful scene where Pigeon is caught in Leila's bedroom, but as in the Hollywood films that inspired this one, it all ends with a song and dance. ▼

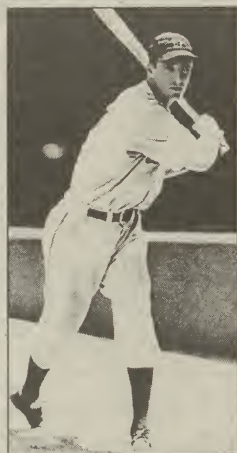
Power-hitter against bigotry

'The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg'

by David Lamble

San Francisco is actually in a pennant race this year, and does anybody in the Castro care? If they don't, there's good reason why — of the 750 roster plays in major league baseball, you can guess just how many have to be queer. Baseball is, of course, famous for putting out a United Nations lineup to hype attendance. But just as superstitious pitchers jump over the foul line on the way to the dugout, baseball has resisted crossing the gender line. Even if one well-paid and well-hung outfielder plays for the pink squad, you'll never find it out in the record books.

A new film documents just how potent rooting for one of your own can be. *The Life and*



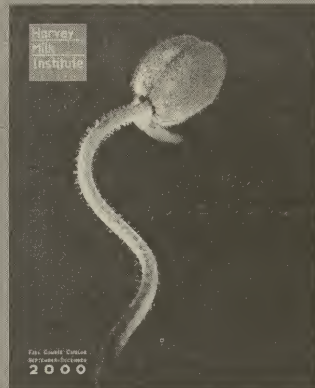
Hammerin' Hank on deck, 1930

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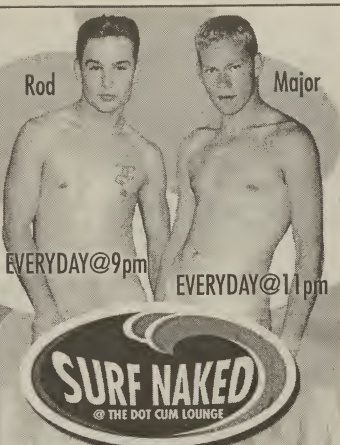
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theater in Los Angeles.

"We were losing our shirts," Robert Schrock likes to say, "so I decided we should drop our pants."

Schrock was the producing artistic director of LA's Celebration Theatre in 1998, when he conceived of a show that would trumpet male nudity and then hopefully offer something more than soft-core titillation. He invited dozens of songwriters to participate, and wound up with contributions by 13 authors that he thought fit his theme the best.

"I wanted it to show that nudity is not necessarily always about sex," Schrock said, "and the whole purpose of the show is to explore

different aspects of nudity. I think it's been so successful because it's not about sex."

Well, it's a little bit about sex. In New York, audiences pay a \$20 surcharge to sit in the first two rows. And as Sawyer notes, "You know in the opening number where people's eyes are going to be, so you have to gauge at what point in the show are they going to start looking at faces."

In fact, "Gratuitous Nudity" is the name of the opening song designed to quickly get the obvious out of way. Other songs, performed in varying degrees of dress, explore a variety of body issues. "Muscle Addiction" looks at gay gym culture. "The Bliss of a Bris" is about circumcision. "Robert Mitchum" recalls a time when men weren't necessarily buffed to perfection. And songs like "The Naked Maid," "Perky Little Porn Star," and "Nothin' but the Radio On" are fairly self-explanatory.

Rocks out

San Francisco is getting a song written expressly for this production, thanks to Sawyer. "I had heard that in Texas they wrote an original song called, 'They Grow Them Bigger in Texas,' and I asked if I could have an original song for San Francisco," the director said. The result is "Rockin' on the Rock." "It's an Alcatraz fantasy," Sawyer said.

Sawyer has made several other more subtle changes to the show. "The material has a tendency to be justifying the gay aspects," he said, "and I wanted to make sure it was a celebration of the sexuality rather than a justification. I think the gay audience in San Francisco is more sophisticated in that way than even New York audiences."

While he hasn't changed any of the lyrics, Sawyer brought an atti-

tude adjustment to "Muscle Addiction." The gym number, performed by the entire cast, has a lyric that he just didn't like: "It's true for you, it's true for me, gay men got to be fat free."

"That's the number where I've probably placed the most of my little political agenda," Sawyer said. "You can make a comment on the lyric and still say the words."

But the fact is, getting cast in *Naked Boys Singing* is pretty much guaranteed to improve anyone's workout routine.

"Of course we want some attractiveness," said Schrock, the original director, "but I tried to round out the cast a little bit with people who weren't quite so buff and gorgeous. But after I cast them, they become buff because they're surrounded by all these other gorgeous naked guys."

When he was casting the show locally, Sawyer knew his decisions couldn't be just skin-deep. "You can be good-looking and naked for a couple of numbers," he said, "but after that you have to have all the other requisite musical comedy talents."

Seven members

Sawyer's cast of seven has names familiar to regular theatergoers (Arturo Galster, Peter Fogel, and Tom Orr) and names without a long list of local credits (Jared Fortunato, Isaac Brantner, Steve Clay, and James Quedado).

Jared Fortunato, one of the fresh faces, was just leaving the gym when he paused for an interview over his cell phone. His first real acting job was in *Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time*, so being naked on stage in his new show isn't much of a novelty.

"It's just icing on the cake of a next page ▶

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COMICS

Coley Cochran

◀ Arts cover

Coley's attributes and history.

"Coley is nothing like me physically," John told me in one of a series of recent telephone conversations, "but there are several things in his personality that are like me. Certainly his ideas of sexual freedom. While some feel shame about sexuality, I don't. I feel natural and comfortable with it. If others have been made to feel uneasy about sex, the most natural of feelings, that's their problem, not mine. I consider my sexuality to be the ultimate joy of life, and, in fact, my religion."

In addition to this insistent and rebellious sense of sexual freedom, John also shares — or used to share — with Coley the traits of promiscuity, exhibitionism and narcissism. "When I was young," John confided, "I did have a tendency to go to gay parties pretty outrageously attired, and sometimes I was unattired before the party was over. I had stuff that didn't stay on for too long. It wasn't intended to."

John was painfully aware of the small-town prejudice and lack of role models in his sleepy home of Statesboro, some 50 miles inland from Savannah, and as a young teen denied his sexuality. But after moving to Atlanta to attend art school, he came out at the age of

20. Despite having a lover — the man who had been his very first sexual encounter — John dove with rowdiness into the permissive freedoms of the late 1960s.

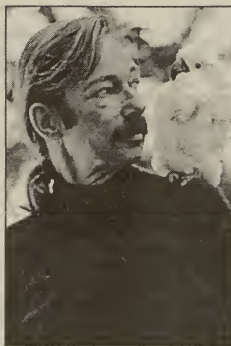
Finding that the commercial art work offered in Atlanta wasn't personally stimulating, John moved with his lover to West Los Angeles, where his unfortunately unsettled partner committed suicide. Highly traumatized, John lived alone quietly for a time. "But the '70s were a good time to be single," John recalled, "and my life was soon filled with sex and having a good time. And then I met Jimmy, and we've been together for 23 years."

Too sexy for success

During those early years in LA, John thought he was content doing portraits, graphic illustrations, and commercial work. But it was all coming out too sexy, which compromised his mainstream success. Then suddenly one day, his true calling began to crystallize.

"My lover was looking at some skin magazine illustrations, and I said, 'I could do that!'" Soon, *First-Hand* and *In Touch* magazines were publishing his erotic illustrations. Yet what he had in mind was a comic strip.

"I really admired Howard Cruise's work in the early *Advocate* newspaper. He wanted to be as sexy as he could, but then AIDS



John Blackburn and Carmen

made him decide not to promote that, and he went in different directions. But I still liked the sex idea. There could be nothing wrong with depicting sex in a comic strip, since it was a fantasy. So I decided to act as if the 1970s had extended right up into the '90s, without the plague.

"I think sex is a good subject for art. And I like to see how far I can go, to shock, if possible. It's more interesting that way. It's escapism, after all, not life."

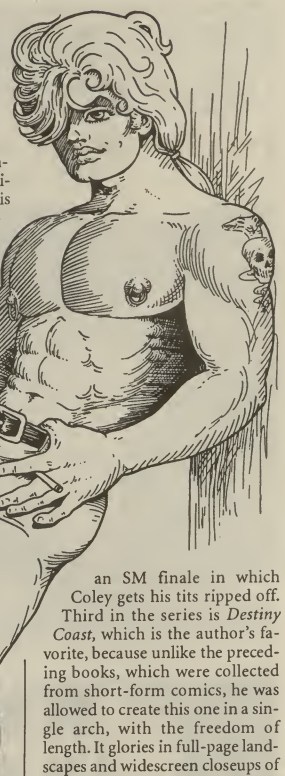
Coley came to life only after several starts. First there was the darkly handsome "Johnny Shadow," a Coley prototype whose single exploit was published in *Meatmen* 16. "I had scribbled around

for a long time before I found Coley," John told me, "but then his personality just came to life. I didn't decide he'll be this or that — it just came to me. Not only that, but as I began to draw and write him, I fell in love with him."

John printed up several adventures for friends. One of the earliest, and still a favorite of mine, is *Roller Boogie Hotrod*, a characteristically happy burst of cock display in which Coley swings his thing down West LA's Westwood Blvd. (ultimately published in *Meatmen* 14).

John submitted the strips to both Winston Leyland, publisher of the *Meatmen* series, and to Eros Comix, a company which had pioneered the publication of sexually explicit graphic novels, but which had not previously published any gay material. Both jumped, and in 1992 Coley appeared in their differing formats, and was marketed to different buyers. The Eros company, which distributes its graphic novels to comic book outlets, doesn't seem to know about gay bookstores, with the result that many gay fans of Coley's *Meatmen* appearances don't know of these full-length graphic novels. A Different Light promises to carry them; I found them at Comix Experience on Divisadero. The curious should check out a fan's swell tribute on the Internet, www.linder.com/under/blackburn.

Ripping tale
The first of the Eros Comix novels is basically bi- and heterosexual. The second is a rough sex melodrama set in Bayou country, with a corrupt judge, sadistic prison guards, a murderous gang of homophobic good ol' boys, and



an SM finale in which Coley gets his tits ripped off. Third in the series is *Destiny Coast*, which is the author's favorite, because unlike the preceding books, which were collected from short-form comics, he was allowed to create this one in a single arch, with the freedom of length. It glories in full-page landscapes and widescreen closeups of the body parts you like most. It's also the most gay, as well as the most transgressive of the series.

But transgression be damned is John's attitude. "I've always worked under my own name. I'm willing to say, yes, I did this. And if you don't like it, then lump it." And since John finds cartooning a difficult art form, with each page taking a full day to complete — *Destiny Coast* took a year and a half — he's glad to hear from his fans.

"It's a good feeling, to hear from people how excited they are by Coley, and how much they identify. And they get the point," John concluded, "that sex is a really good thing." ▼

Eros Comix info: 1-800-657-1100; www.eroscomix.com

Naked Boys

◀ previous page

great show," said Fortunato, who declined to reveal his age. "I've found it's more enjoyable than singing with your clothes on. When I sing I reveal myself and, symbolically, shedding one's clothes is a great way to do that."

When Fortunato arrived in San Francisco in 1997, he was an officer with the Justice Department deciding who was entitled to political asylum in the United States. "It was a parade of misery," he said. "It was a difficult thing to do, and I didn't like doing it."

On a flight to Los Angeles, as he was sharing his professional woes, his seatmate produced the busi-

ness card of an acting coach in San Francisco. "She said, 'Go see this woman. It will change your life; and three years later here I am.'"

After playing Jeff Stryker's cellmate, Fortunato got to keep his clothes on in *The Secret of the Old Queen*, the Hardy Boys spoof at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

"You know, what I get self-conscious about is not being naked in front of people," he said. "People ask me that. 'Oh, isn't that scary?' I guess it is for maybe five or 10 minutes. I would better understand someone saying, 'Gosh, you're singing and dancing in front of a roomful of people, and isn't that challenging?' That to me is the real challenge, not whether I have jeans and a T-shirt on or nothing at all. I mean, that's what we all look like

without clothes on."

But Arturo Galster, one of the local stage veterans in the cast, wasn't so sure about that when he was tapped for the cast. "I am the oldest one in the cast, and I thought, 'I'm going to have to compete on stage with these young whippersnappers, all cute and done.' I have been going to the gym a lot more regularly."

Galster, 41, is famous around these parts for his evocations of female personalities in shows like *Dirty Little Show Tunes* and *Christmas with the Crawfords*. His tribute to Patsy Cline has been a local institution since 1983.

"I'm used to hiding behind a wig and three pounds of makeup," Galster said. "In fact, the other

page 41 ►

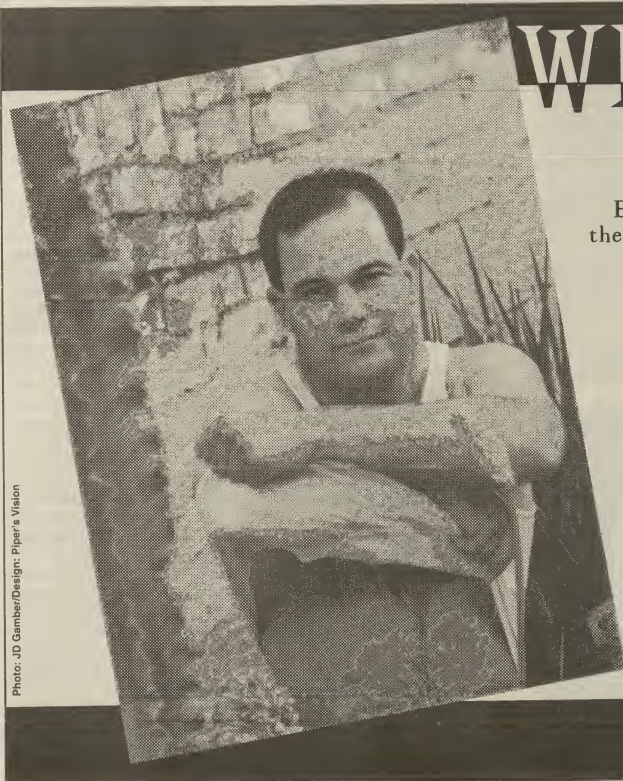


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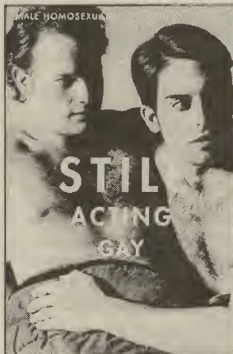
by Alex Robertson Textor

Still Acting Gay: Male Homosexuality in Modern Drama by John M. Clum; St. Martin's, \$15.95

Flaming Classics: Queering the Film Canon by Alexander Doty; Routledge, \$18.95

John Clum and Alexander Doty both offer recent contributions to the media studies wing of lesbian and gay studies.

Clum's *Still Acting Gay* is a revised and expanded version of the 1992 *Acting Gay*. Clum overviews American and British drama, looking at both theatre and film.



Clum's analysis is fairly traditional and very well-read, hopping from drama to drama in a fluent and comfortable effortlessness. *Still Acting Gay* is a masterful overview of the presence of male homosexuality in recent drama. Clum's subject matter and methodology are indifferent to recent theoretical trends that otherwise characterize lesbian and gay studies. This makes for solid and readable prose, though it won't amount to an electrifying or thrilling read for many outside of its drama-centered audience.

Still Acting Gay offers various prisms through which gay drama can be comprehended: the history of representation; AIDS; and gay cultural history, among others. The overall effect is reader-friendly, allowing several kinds of drama to be read in concert with one another.

Doty's *Flaming Classics*, on the other hand, avidly trains its eye on partial and selective objects of inquiry. *Flaming Classics* owes much to Doty's prior study *Making Things Perfectly Queer*, published in 1993. In *Making*, Doty argues

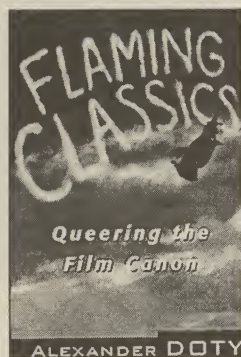
that it is in "acts of production or reception" that the queerness of mass culture is revealed and confirmed. To put it another way, we make films, television shows and other cultural materials queer via our interpretations of them.

Doty continues this argument in *Flaming Classics*. At the core of *Flaming Classics* is the notion that mainstream, classic films can be more "queer-suggestive" than openly lesbian and gay texts. Doty also argues that queer readings of films otherwise regarded as heterosexual should not be avoided; that they, in fact, should be presented as accurate and durable.

Gentlemen prefer bis

This is the philosophical crux of *Flaming Classics*: that queer interpretations of "straight" films can and should challenge the assumption that there is no homosexuality in a character or narrative unless directly, predictably and literally stated as such. From Doty's perspective, it is beyond literalism that possibilities for uncanny and strange relations between viewer and text or between subject and interpretation can thrive. He pursues *The Wizard of Oz* as lesbian fantasy, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* as an encasement of bisexual allegiances, and the odd gender of Norman Bates' character in *Psycho*.

If Doty prefers unpredictable queer readings, not necessarily homosexual, Clum depicts a grad-



ual but consistent evolution of gay male theatre, from the hidden to the open. Clum moves deftly from play to play by subject. This organization of the book renders its treatment even less academic.

Flaming Classics is geared toward an academic audience, or at least a general audience familiar with academic theory, while *Still Acting Gay* will probably be more accessible to less academically primed readers. Clum himself writes intentionally in an almost anti-theoretical manner. The different frameworks of the books make them interesting as companion pieces, as ways of making sense both of explicitly gay drama as well as drama that we decide is, in one or another way, gay. ▼

Got Bruce

by Robert Julian

Bruce! My Adventures in the Skin Trade and Other Essays by Bruce Vilanch; Putnam, \$18.95

Bruce Vilanch, aging celebrante, comedy writer, and stand-up comedian, reworks a small amount of material, previously published elsewhere, in *Bruce! My Adventures in the Skin Trade and Other Essays*. The title, he admits in the introduction, has nothing to do with the skin trade, but he thought it would sell books. Now that we know what he is, there's nothing left but haggling about price; \$18.95 is the going rate for the current Bruce! adventure.

In these 27 essayettes, Vilanch establishes that he can occasionally turn a funny phrase and that he has Hollywood connections. His insights run about as deep as the Los Angeles river. The gnomish Vilanch looks like a bearded cocker spaniel, one who cannot restrain himself from gushing over his celebrity friends and employers. Here he fawns over Mel Gibson, sings hosannas to the late Elizabeth Montgomery, and trots out his close personal relationships with Bette Midler, Robin Williams, and Billy Crystal.

In this book, and in his frequent public appearances, Vilanch gives new meaning to the term "fawning sycophant." After years of writing comedy material for the famous, he now rubs his rotund persona up against the illuminata of Hollywood, hoping some of that stardust will rub off. Not since Jacqueline Susann has there been such a relentless self-promoter, and not since Golda Meir has there been such a looker!

In addition to the 1999 documentary *Get Bruce!*, Vilanch appears regularly in the pages of *The*



Advocate, and he is featured in the revived *Hollywood Squares* as the unnatural heir to Paul Lynde. Unlike Lynde, Vilanch is out of the closet, but this makes him no less repugnant. Serving as the mild-mannered, harmless fag, he recalls ancient Hollywood role models along the lines of Stepin Fetchit and Franklin Pangborn. Vilanch is so physically repulsive, and so quick to make a fool of himself, that he is given air time on a regular basis to make homosexuality palatable to the masses via buffoonery. Let there be no mistake, Bruce Vilanch is no Noel Coward. And if the real Vilanch were ever seriously shown on camera with his tongue down the throat of another man, America's love affair with him would end faster than Ernest Borgnine's marriage to Ethel Merman.

For those who have not had enough mindless self-promotion from the denizens of Tinseltown, or for those who thought they might have missed something in those back issues of *The Advocate*, this book is for you. As far as this reviewer is concerned, *Bruce! My Adventures in the Skin Trade and Other Essays* is to literature what the new Kathie Lee Gifford CD is to music. ▼

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BOOKS

Mama's boy

by Jim Piechota

A Density of Souls by Christopher Rice; Talk Miramax Books, \$23.95

It would be an obscenely delicious temptation for a reviewer to dismiss Christopher Rice's enterprising, very gay new novel as the simple instance of a young writer riding lucky Mommy's coattails express to success. To resist the lure to bad-mouth a newly published author simply for being born (right place, right parents) is to shirk the bias and hype that surround this work and examine it as it stands: warts and all.

Still, the 21-year-old author (more popularly known as "Anne Rice's son") has benefited from his familial association by being graced with a big publicity budget, a media-intensive website (www.densityofsouls.com), and a cameo in a recent episode of MTV's *The Real World*. Rice is obviously surfing high above other first authors who search desperately for a publisher's attention.

Set in the lush Garden District of New Orleans (where else?), the melodramatic narrative follows Meredith Ducote, Brandon Charbonnet, Stephen Conlin, and Greg Darby through their tumultuous high school years. It is here that

secrets, lies, jealousy, murder, bomb threats, suicide, hot sex, forbidden love, violence, and a particularly destructive Hurricane Brandy conspire to make their young lives a living nightmare — with a few twists, of course.

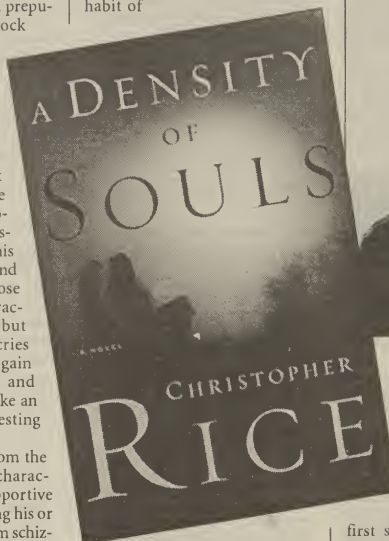
The book opens with a prepubescent, clandestine lip-lock in a cemetery between gay character ("rail-thin, androgynous") Stephen and the soon-to-be high school football star Greg, all observed by jealous friend Meredith. The mess that ensues places brittle Stephen at the mercy of homophobic taunts and physical cruelty throughout his school years, abandoned and ostracized by his once-close friends, and left alone. Miraculously, he finds love (but cries a bit), loses love (cries more), finds love again ("erupting into sobs"), and somehow manages to make an often-clumsy plot interesting and timely.

Rice's story benefits from the strength of well-drawn characters, especially a fine supportive cast of adults, each carrying his or her own sordid secret, from schizophrenia to guilty grief to alcoholism. The dialogue is authentic and realistic, and adds momen-

tum to a story that is appealingly gothic without being maudlin.

Steam heat

The book is problematic simply because it is overwritten. Rice develops an annoying habit of



Christopher Rice, author of *A Density of Souls*

ously by using sophisticated phrasing. Many scenes suffer from descriptive overload, and some of the narrative is basically incomprehensible. One of the

first straight sex scenes in the book is made laughable by this strange passage: "He held her breasts as if they were handlebars and rode her as if her vagina was his own fist." Rice fares somewhat better when describing the adulterous aspect of sex between a straight football player and a gay student: "A little fag with no pride and no self-esteem sucking on

your dick is richer worship than you can get from any cheerleader. Because men aren't supposed to suck each other's dicks, so when a man sucks yours, it means he's giving you everything he has! And that is worship!" Someone's done his homework.

Whether enticing readers by way of the famous name, the "high school is hell for gay boys" theme, or the underlying sense that "Anne Rice's son" has indeed lived many of the moments in this book, at least *A Density of Souls* is not about vampires, because Momma's already got that ground well-covered. ▼

Argentine life

by Robert Julian

Manuel Puig and the Spider Woman by Suzanne Jill Levine; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27.50

Querida Susana, You have worked so hard on my biography, and I am so honored. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. As translator of several of my works, no one knows them better. (*Divina*, I won't revive that old dispute over royalties, but I take issue with your comment that my translations into English, of my own work, suffer from "an awkward literalism." *Literatismo* was my middle name, but I never suffered from it.)

As for your writing in *Manuel Puig and the Spider Woman*, did you really have to labor over all those details from my novels? Let the reader buy them; good biography is about the artist, not the art. And this is where you fail, to my great pleasure. I did not choose the life of a *mariposa* to have my brief flight on the human plane exposed in intimate detail. I eluded you, despite all your efforts, as I eluded everyone except my dear friend Mario. I was so difficult, so evasive, no biographer could capture me on the page. And you, a woman of a certain sexuality and an academic, came to your task with those two strikes against you. Regarding the latter, I offer this quote from the biography:

"No one artist embodied the sixties more wholly, even in engaged anti-*yanqui* Buenos Aires, than Andy Warhol, and the most enduring legacy of his art would be its liberating elision of the boundaries between high art and mass culture. ...Manuel Puig would blast similar boundaries with a well-honed sense of the put-on too, but by recycling the debris of mass culture in a creative



Manuel Puig

effort to recuperate a buried authenticity."

Madonna! Compared to these sentences, my "awkward literalism" is as smooth as a Fred and Ginger continental. You have been a professor too long, and it is killing your writing; the book reads like a master's thesis, a fool-proof cure for insomnia. But I don't want to be too harsh. Your research is thorough and precise, and I would expect no less from you.

I doubt this book will find an audience, because I am doomed to be remembered as a one-trick pony on the literary front. And if it weren't for that spider woman, the only tricks allowed me would be my memorable Carioca assignments. One big Hollywood movie, with four Oscar nominations, and a posthumous Broadway musical — things could have been worse. So I thank you, on behalf of myself and all the other Argentine writers mentioned in your work. Those of us who have traded the Rio de la Plata for the River Styx owe you a debt of gratitude.

Love,

Manuel "La Christie" Puig ▼

We're looking for a few good men! Heard any lately?

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus announces auditions in all parts for Holiday 2000.

If you are interested in auditioning, call the chorus office at (415) 863-4472, leave your name, address, and phone number and request that an audition packet be sent to you.

Prospective members are invited to an open rehearsal in the Simon Auditorium at Laguna Honda Hospital on Monday, September 18, 2000 from 7-10:00pm.

There will be an Audition Clinic held on Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm at the Chorus Office, 400 Castro Street, San Francisco.

Auditions will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2000 from 7:00pm at the Chorus Office, 400 Castro Street, San Francisco.

For more information, call (415) 863-4472.



OUT&ABOUT

Fri 8

Gurdjieff Hall

FoolsFury presents "The Illusion" by Tony Kushner, written in 1990 (before "Angels in America"), directed by FoolsFury founder Ben Yalom. It's a dark tale that follows an old man searching for redemption in the cave of a mysterious sorcerer, where he seeks news of his long-lost prodigal son. What he finds is a mystical world

inhabited by wraiths and visions, both comic and deeply tragic. This is the first theatrical production in Gurdjieff Hall, a converted 1920s movie house. \$15 (\$10 students/seniors). 8:30pm Fri. & Sat.; 7pm Sun. 312 Connecticut St. (at 18th St., Potrero Hill District). Info/tix: 248-1918.

Eureka Theatre

Opening night: 42nd Street Moon presents cabaret and stage star Meg Mackay in "Dear World," the musical version of "The Madwoman of Chail-

lot," set to music by Jerry Herman, Jerome Lawrence, and Robert E. Lee. Including such songs as "Kiss Her Now," "I Don't Want to Know," "Through the Bottom of the Glass," and the bizarre "Tea Party" for the trio of madwomen. \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun.; \$22 Thur.; \$19 seniors/students. Thru Sept. 24. 8pm (6pm Sat.; 2pm Sun.). 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). 788-1125; www.42ndSt-Moon.com.

CCAC Institute, SF

Opening reception: "Rooms for Listening," a large-scale exhibition and performance series featuring a spectrum of experimental electronic sound and music. Architect Thom Faulders transforms the gallery into "Mute Room," an ideal lounging/performance space where visitors recline upon the smooth, spongy surface of a soft membrane that fills the entire room. In the lower Logan Galleries, find interactive sound installations by media artists Toshio Iwai, Leo Villareal, and Involving Systems/Meso. Sound-art performances, radio broadcasts, and webcasts by Blectum from Blectum (a local group, highly recommended), Atom Heart, Kit Clayton, Matthew Herbert, Brandon Labelle and others will take place throughout September and October. Tonight's opening features an artist talk by Leo Villareal. Presented in conjunction with the Goethe-Institut's "Acustica International SF 2000" program. Free. 7-8pm. Logan Galleries/Carroll Weisel Hall. California College of Arts and Crafts, 1111 eighth St. (at 16th & Wisconsin).

Belcher Studios Gallery

Opening reception: "The Art of Feng Shui," an exhibition of recent works by painter Tim Gaskin, with additional works by Fung Shui-inspired artists, plus an introduction to the ancient Chinese art form by Nancy Linebrier. The science of Feng Shui is based on the flow of energy, the balance of yin and yang, and the interaction of the five elements in one's environment. Arranging the home or office according to the teachings can affect one's peace of mind, physical health, and even career development. Gaskin uses painting as a tool to alter the environment according to Feng Shui principles. Free. 6-9pm. Exhibit runs thru Sept. 10. Free. 69 Belcher St. Info: (800) 322-5038; www.shopfengshui.com

ODC Theater

Maxine Moerman Dancetheatre presents the olfactory extravaganza "Salt of the Earth," the popular "Tank Hill Ballads," the premiere of "Youkali Tango," and an excerpt from guest choreographer Christy Funsch's "After the Kiss." The "Salt of the Earth" presents a Fellini-esque world propelled by the lush, circus-like tunes of the popular local jazz group Tin Hat Trio. "Tank Hill Ballads," originally created and performed on a high hill, has been adapted for the confines of a theater. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also Sept. 9, 15 & 16. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Polk Hall, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium,

Final day: pre-jury public exhibition of design entries for "San Francisco Prize 2000," the Harvey Milk Memorial Plaza International Design Competition. See how designers from home and abroad envision the transformation of the intersection of Castro, Market, and 17th streets into a vital civic space in honor of Harvey Milk. Free. 10am-8pm. 99 Grove St., Civic Center. Info: 554-5757.

Catharine Clark Gallery

Ongoing: "Aural Sex," a group exhibition by seven artists who imaginatively explore the sensuous and erotically evocative qualities of sound. Guest curated by Marcia Tanner. Featuring videos, sculpture, installation art, drawing, and photography. Thru Oct. 7. 49 Geary St. Info: cclark-gallery.com

Sat 9

Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: "Naked Boys Singing!" the all-singing, all-dancing, all-naked musical comedy, a contemporary "Oh Calcutta!" featuring seven guys who give it their all while baring it all, singing 16 original songs from the ribald "Gratuitous Nudity" to the cuttlingly funny "Bliss of a Briss" and "The Naked Maid." \$26. Thru Oct. 22. 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & South Van Ness). 861-5079.

Culture Cache Gallery

Opening reception: "Whipping Boy and the Seven Deadly Sins," new paintings, drawings and collage by SF



Featured soloist Twyla Whittaker joins the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in performing Handel's *Semele*, opening at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley. See Sunday.

artist Tom Fowler. Visually inspired in part by costumes worn in religious processions in northern Mexico, Fowler's paintings, drawings and collage interpret the seven sins of pride, greed, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth, rendering the topics of sin and guilt with irony and humor. Free. 7-11pm. 731 Florida St. (at 20th St.). 642-2360; www.culturecache.com

Glama-Rama!

Opening party: "Angels: The Art of Doris Fish and Miss Kitty Litter-Green." The two drag divas helped abolish the tired old female-bashing stereotypes of drag and gave birth to a fresh, highly stylized uber-femme representation. Fish, best known as co-creator of "Vegas in Space," spent much of her leisure time painting, drawing her ideas from '60s Day-Glo style and classic film imagery. This half of the exhibit was shown earlier this year at the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California. Miss Kitty Litter-Green's bold art and drag still resonate through the performance art community. She believed that beauty was asymmetrical and sometimes surreal. Her paintings exemplify that spirit, and the colorful life she lived. Enjoy performances, drinks and snacks. Free. 7-10pm. 417 South Van Ness (at 15th St.).

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema hosts video-mixing crews Animal Charm and UNU, both based in L.A. They'll engage in a showdown in a cabaret setting complete with beatnik waitresses and maybe a few sailors' brawls. Animal Charm (Rich Bott and Jim Fetterley) show several single-channel works, distillations of music videos, commercials and infomercials sampled from a reservoir of neglected or useless images. UNU offer hellacious, obsessively edited films and videos whose inspired attacks on image-surface integrity open up an optical shortcut to perverse pleasures of visual decay. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Sun 10

First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra begins its new season with Handel's most luscious opera-oratorio, *Semele*, conducted by Music Director Nicholas McGegan. Featuring soloists Sophie Daneman, Daniel Taylor, Twyla Whittaker, Wilke Brummelstroete, Mark Padmore, David Evtis, and the Philharmonia Choral (under the direction of Bruce Lamott). It tells the tale of forbidden love between Jupiter, King of the Gods, and Semele, a mortal woman. Libretto by playwright William Congreve, based on a story from Ovid. \$32-\$46. 7pm. Also on Friday, Sept. 9 (additional shows on Sept. 13 at Dean Leshner Center in Walnut Creek, and Sept. 15 at Herbst Theatre in SF). Dana St. & Durant Ave., Berkeley. Tix: (415) 392-4400. Info: www.philharmonia.org

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Trumpeter Roy Hargrove

River of cool

A long time ago in San Francisco, before I wised up, I used to think hip gay people didn't like and never listened to jazz. That's when I was spending most of my urban-leisure time hanging out in the most popular gay bars, clubs and cafes, where never once did I hear the sultry, sweet strains of jazz I so appreciated. Yet I dared not admit my liking to potential tricks, who would be sure to sneer at me, contemptuous of an art form with no apparent gay following except, perhaps, in dingy piano bars. Admitting a taste for the genre seemed unlikely to get me laid.

The gay community's music horizon has broadened considerably since the glamour days of disco. Now many aging danceaholics and young clubbers alike openly confess jazz leanings. Some might even be called jazz queens, and they deserve respect for tuning in to the coolest vibe flowing across the continent.

An excellent place to encounter the jazz-loving species of homo, mingling amicably with a jazzy hetero crowd, will be up at the Russian River this coming weekend, in the heart of Sonoma County's beautiful redwood country, where gayness abounds and resorts cater to the tastes of one and all. There, on September 9 and 10, jazz lovers of every stripe will gather to partake of the exquisite 24th Annual Russian River Jazz Festival, held on Johnson's Beach.

The headliners for the fest are household names, even in gay households — pianist Chick Corea, vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater, Grammy winner Poncho Sanchez, and saxophonist Branford Marsalis, among other featured performers. The event begins with a 17-piece big band led by saxophonist Mel Martin, along with drummer Harold Jones who spent many years in the bands of Count Basie and Sarah Vaughan.

One of the most exciting performers on the jazz circuit, Roy Hargrove, will be trumpeting his way through a set informed by his early exposure to gospel music in rural Texas, to R&B and other popular music during his public-school years, and the influence of world-traveled jazz musician David "Fathead" Newman, a fellow Texan and long-standing veteran of the Ray Charles Band. Hargrove once described Newman's sound as "melodic and greasy," and sought to emulate the style. By the age of 19, he had performed his own brand of melodic, greasy jazz in clubs and concert halls in Texas and across the country, often guesting with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie and Herbie Hancock.

The word to all you LGBT and questioning jazz lovers is to get your booties up to the River this weekend, making sure to arrive early to claim a picnic spot on the beach. Bring blankets, swim gear, hats, sunscreen, and something to keep warm in once the sun sets. And as this is jazz, not disco, do remember the proper time to snap your fingers is in rhythm with the beat, not when you're dissing your beach neighbor's flawed taste in bikini wear. :-)

The 24th Annual Russian River Jazz Festival takes place September 9-10 at Johnson's Beach in Guerneville. Tickets are \$40-\$80. Call (707) 869-3940 or surf www.sonic.net/~rrjazz



#4, *Anger*, from the 7 Deadly Sins Series, 1999, by Tom Fowler, at Culture Cache Gallery. See Saturday.



Sluts A Go Go, by Doris Fish, at Glama-Rama! See Saturday.

A Different Light

Judd Winick, the former MTV star on "Real World San Francisco," reads from *Pedro and Me*, in which he remembers Pedro Zamora, the HIV-positive AIDS activist and TV star who helped educate a nation about the disease. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Mon 11

Piaf's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcase, hosted by Pippi Lovestocking (Trannyshack; Pipstock), plus Ken Miller, Nancy Gauquier, Erin Souza, Bob Douglas, David Kleinberg, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Tue 12

Bethany United Methodist Church

"Air," a free concert by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, conducted by Jantine Louie. Themes of the ethereal to raise spirits and arouse the imagination. Featuring guest flautist Marti Stoddard and harpist Deanna Williams in a performance of Charles T. Griffes' *Poem*. The program also includes Robert Smith's *The Ascension*, James Barnes' *Impressions of Japan*, Debussy's *Fetes*, and Prokofiev's *Athletic Festival March*. "Air" is the third installment of "The Elements" (Fire, Earth, Air, Space),

the 2000 Community Concert Series. Free. 8pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper). Info: Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 554-0402.

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Women's Work," produced by Mary Alice Fry, featuring Mary Ann Biewener (comedic theatre about a three-day bridal shower), Kelly Wadlegger (dance theatre with text, vocals, and live electronic music by Daniel), and Merlin Coleman (movement theater solo with props and cello). \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000; www.ftloose.org

Museo ItaloAmericano,

Opening reception: "Beniamino Bufano: A Retrospective," including poems, rare drawings, prints, paintings, mosaics, and his famous sculptures. In his teens he received the Whitney first prize for his statuary group *The Immigrants*, and in San Francisco in 1915, he created *The Panels of Art* towering 20 feet over the Palace of Fine Arts at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. His sculptures were inspired by his love of St. Francis of Assisi, his embodiment of world Peace. \$3 (\$2 seniors/students). 5:30-7pm. Thru January 14, 2001. Building C, Fort Mason Center. 673-2200.

Wed 13

spaceprojekt

Opening reception: Larkin Street Youth Center presents "Momentum 2000," an exhibition of Polaroid photo-

tos by runaway and homeless youth. A benefit for the nonprofit center, which is dedicated to helping homeless and runaway youth find lasting, healthy alternatives to street life. More than 30 youths documented their lives with Polaroid images, opening windows onto their experiences. Curated by Jennjoy of jenjoygallery and Riley John-donnell of *Surface Magazine*. \$50. 6pm. 1141 Polk St. (at Sutter). 749-3848.

Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

Preview: a pre-auction exhibit of the 250 works up for grabs at the "Art for Life Auction" (Sat., Sept. 16), sponsored by Face to Face, an organization providing services to people living with AIDS in Sonoma County. Select favorite works and plan bidding without the crowd expected on auction day. Free. Noon-7pm (also 9/14 noon-4pm and 9/15 noon-7pm). The Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa. Info/tix: (707) 544-1581.

Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra continues its new season with Handel's most luscious opera-oratorio, *Semele*, conducted by Music Director Nicholas McGegan. \$32-\$46. 7:30pm. Civic & Locust, Walnut Creek. Tix: (925) 943-7469 Info: www.philharmonia.org

A Different Light

Bard Cole reads from *Briefly Told Lives*, a collection of short stories that present a panorama from the urban gay ghetto to working-class suburbia and the counterculture of punks and sexworkers. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Thu 14

City Nights

"Faith," the city's only 18+ gay nightclub, turns the spotlight on resident DJs Blackstone and Ruben Mancias. Commanding the front room are DJs Jay-R and Twist. \$10 cover. 18+ w/ID. 715 Harrison St. (at 3rd St.). Info: 905-4100; www.faihtsf.com

A Different Light

Ellen Samuels reads from *Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Lesbian, Gay and Transsexual Parents*. A groundbreaking collection of essays by teen and adult children of GLBT parents. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

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David Mendelsohn (top) and Keith Davis play in the foolsFURY production of Tony Kushner's *The Illusion* at Gurdjieff hall. See Saturday.

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Hans Christian Andersen unbound

John Glover finds the truth in fairy tales

by Richard Dodds

John Glover, who won a Tony Award for playing gay brothers, decided some years ago that he could be a better actor if he wasn't worrying about hiding the fact that he himself is gay.

"It took a long time for me to come around," said the star of ACT's *Hans Christian Andersen*. "I spent the '60s and '70s being very frightened of being myself, even with my friends. I finally looked at what was important to me."

If opening up helped his art—and winning the Tony Award for *Love! Valour! Compassion!* indicates it did—Glover feels the pressure to reveal even more for his current assignment as the master spinner of fairy tales. "It's terrifying at certain points," he said, "and at other points so exhilarating."

A stage adaptation of a 1952 Danny Kaye movie musical might not seem the stuff of soul-baring challenges, but what is being conceived on the stage of the Geary Theatre is far afield from traditional musical comedy. What basically remains from the movie are Frank Loesser's songs, and they are being woven into a New Age spectacle by director Martha Clarke and librettist Sebastian Barry that explores Andersen's troubled psyche as the source of his allegorical stories.

"This is a complete change of pace for me," Glover said. "I'm realizing that what Martha wants is me. I play a lot of villains and psychos and things like that, but I act them. She's looking for some kind of honed-down truth in all her work. Part of the challenge is peeling off all those layers of protection we have."

Glover, 56, has become some-



John Glover in rehearsal for Frank Loesser's *Hans Christian Andersen*

thing of an instant expert on Hans Christian Andersen, reading all his stories that are often a lot darker than the famous ones that most children know. He's also read several biographies, including the recent *Fan Dancer*, which explores Andersen's fear of intimacy with both men and women, and which strongly suggests he was a repressed homosexual.

"Several of the books say that masturbation was high on his mind, and in his diaries there was a symbol that he used for it," Glover said. "He had great guilt about his sexuality, which just unlocked so many demons in him, but it all went into work, and I think it's one of the reasons he was such a genius."

While the new production doesn't suggest any latent homosexuality ("and there are no jerk-off scenes," Glover says), it does show his pattern of professing love for clearly unavailable women. "I think we deal honestly with his problems," he said.

But the show isn't designed as a dark psychodrama. "I look at the evening as a series of these incredible, beautiful, magical escapes that he finds from his life as he deals with all his fears and demons," said Glover, who is the only cast member who doesn't take flight in *Peter Pan* fashion.

"What I'm focusing on in my performance are the parallels that I see between him and me. There are parts of me that I keep secret even from myself. I have demons, and I'd love to be able to healthily look at the demons and still be a wonderful actor and not feel I need them to create."

Clown time

The tall, imposing actor grew up shy and lonely in Maryland as the only child of a father who was a television salesman, and a mother who was a member of the D.A.R. "I was terrified most of the time," Glover said, "and I became a clown. That was a part of my defense."

In high school, theater gave him a place both to bloom and to escape. He headed to college to study drama with the intention of becoming a teacher, but it was his mother who suggested that he apply for a summer apprenticeship at the Barter Theatre in Virginia. When he was cast as the young lead in *Look Homeward, Angel*, acting with experienced

professionals from New York, he decided he had what it takes for a career as an actor.

But acting wasn't the only thing he learned at the Barter Theatre. "Summer stock, my God, what you learn in summer stock," he said. "The first summer was kind of slow, but during the next two I learned quite a lot."

Such as?

"I can't tell you all my secrets," Glover said with a laugh. "I use them in my acting."

Glover arrived in New York in 1966 and was promptly cast as Huck Finn in a traveling children's theater that played elementary schools. But sunny roles were not to be Glover's forte.

He made his film debut in 1978 in *Julia*, playing a mean drunk who gets slapped by Jane Fonda. The villainy would continue in such movies as *52 Pick-Up*, *Scrooged*, *Gremlins 2*, and *Batman and Robin*, among many others. Glover even played the devil himself on the Fox series *Brimstone*. "I let myself be typed as a villain, and I don't want that," Glover said. But the movie roles provide him with the financial cushion to make more adventurous choices in the theater.

Glover has been coupled for eight years with sculptor Adam Kurtzman, and if his domestic life seems settled, his career remains an uncertain succession of temporary jobs. He has no idea, for example, what will follow *Hans Christian Andersen*.


"That's the thing that's been hard," he said, "but I think I'm beginning to just relax about that, that this is the career I'm having."

It still amazes Glover that his mother, a Daughter of the American Revolution, opened the door to his life upon the wicked stage.

"She died a couple of years ago," Glover said. "She had lymphoma. I was in New York doing a project, and when I arrived home for a visit, it had gotten so bad she was just sitting in the house in a daze. My dad was frightened, and kept waiting for me to get home. So we called the ambulance, and I rode to the hospital with her. And as they were wheeling her into the emergency room, she looked up at me and said, 'Has anybody recognized you yet?'" ▼

Hans Christian Andersen, at the Geary Theatre through Oct. 8.

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THEATRE

The fun of the fringe

San Francisco Fringe Festival 2000

by Richard Dodds

Blame it on Scotland. That's where the fringe theater movement began more than 50 years ago, sending forth the idea for anything-goes, up-by-your-bootstraps, shoestring theatrical showcases that has since spread far and wide. San Francisco's version, running Sept. 7-17, is a mere nine years old, but it has become one of the premier fringe festivals on the globe.

This year, 52 theater companies will present 250 performances at five downtown theaters during the San Francisco Fringe Festival. You can check out descriptions and schedules for all the happenings at www.sffringe.org, but several may hold special appeal to lesbian and gay audiences.

Of course, part of the fun of fringe is the risk of the unknown. For example, *My Penis* — *In and Out of Trouble*, a one-man play from Los Angeles, and *It Came From Beneath the Kilt!!!*, a home-grown comedy, have provocative titles that challenge their creators to deliver on the promise.

But in the case of *Trailer Trash Tabloid!*, the camp-friendly title describes a play that has already gone from fringe to mainstream. A big hit at the Orlando Fringe Festival earlier this year, the 60-minute show soon after began a commercial run in Orlando that will be briefly interrupted so the company can go fringe again in San Francisco for a six-performance run at the Exit Theatre.

"We're spending about \$8,000 to come there and make \$4,000," said writer-director Lewis Routh. "But it will do wonders for our future marketing to be able to say that we were the sold-out hit of the San Francisco Fringe Festival."

On the surface at least, *Trailer Trash Tabloid!* looks like a lot like *Greater Tuna* set amid a world where homes have wheels. Two actors, Michael Wanzie and Doug Ba'aser, play in quick-change style 10 of the colorful male and females residents of the New Drawl City Mobile Home Village in Georgia. A long-unsolved murder has brought a TV reporter into their midst, giving them the chance to address their various personal agendas.

"We've certainly heard that before," Routh said of the *Greater Tuna* comparison, "but the thing I hear from people who have seen both shows is that ours is funnier."

For Routh, an Orlando gay theater veteran, *Trailer Trash* marked his first fringe-fest venture. He wrote it at the behest of the two actors, who have their own following in Orlando, and the material was tailored to their talents.

"They have always been in the fringe festival, and Wanzie has always written the show for them," Routh said. "He called me this year, and said he didn't have time to write something. Three days later, I handed them a script. It was one of those things where everything clicked."

That was certainly the case with the elaborately evocative costumes that professional designer Skip Stewart provided at no charge. Stewart met cast member Wanzie on a gay cruise, and when he heard about *Trailer Trash*, he asked to be a part of the project.

"When he designs for shows at Disney, Universal, and Sea World, his work is pretty much anonymous," Routh said. "He just wants the recognition. I told him I'd give him the \$200 we had budgeted for costumes, and he said, 'That won't even buy the feathers.'"

Routh is now rehearsing a second cast in *Trailer Trash* that can tour while the original duo continues the run in Orlando. He is also working on a second installment that continues the characters' adventures. "And my lover has quit his regular job to work full-time for the company," Routh said. *Trailer Trash Tabloid!* is on the fringes no more.

More from the fringe

With no apologies to Dr. Laura, Christina Starr will perform *Dr. Constance Cumming Wants to Help You Get Laid*. This "professional lecture from the world's most experienced lesbian" is designed to help folks of all orientations find coital bliss. Starr hails from Toronto, and performed *Dr. Constance* at the 1999 Vancouver Fringe Festival.

San Francisco author Greg Nott describes *Slam! Bam! Thank You Ma'am* as a play about being gay in a straight situation. A "fag

and a dyke" find their personal space invaded by a cycle-slut, the Lesbian Police, and Machiavellian poets when they take refuge together in bed. Nott also wants to "expose" the Poetry Slam Nationals, in which he has participated in 1996 and 1997.

From the 1998 Toronto Fringe Festival, Carol Lempert reprises her solo performance in *That Dorothy Parker*. Created from anecdotes about Parker's life and selections from her writings, the show presents the fabled wit as she holds court at the Algonquin Round Table.

More fringe fest information is available at 673-3847.

Play time

The Bay Area Playwrights Festival bills itself as the place "where great plays are born!" It's certainly a place where soon-to-be-famous playwrights have developed early works. The festival, now its 23rd year, can count Sam Shepard, Anna Devereaux Smith, Holly Hughes, and David Henry Hwang among its graduates.

Six new works will be presented in a rotating repertory running from Sept. 13-24 at the Z Space Studios. In this year's festival, two of the six playwrights being showcased often deal in gay and lesbian themes in their work.

Brian Thorntenson's *Summerland* (Sept. 14 at 8 p.m., Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.) focuses on a young gay man, struggling to escape the isolation of life on the plains of

Doug Ba'aser as Norma Jean Schuster in *Trailer Trash Tabloid!*

South Dakota, when his life is completely changed by the arrival of three strangers. Thorntenson is a founding member of the Z Space Collective. His first play, *Heading South*, was staged at Theatre Rhino, 450 Geary, and the Berkeley Art Center.

Brighe Mullins' *Monkey in the Middle* (Sept. 13 & 22 at 8 p.m.) takes place on the edge of Mojave Desert during the dawn of the human genome project. An oversexed girl with a trigger finger, an overzealous career Marine, a deadbeat dad, and an addled group of scientists populate this satire of scientific frontiers. Mullins, who divides her time between San Francisco and New York, is the

winner of the Jane Chambers Award for exploring lesbian subjects in *Topographical Eden*, staged by the Magic Theatre in 1997.

Other works being featured in the 23rd Bay Area Playwrights Festival are David Adjmi's *Strange Attractions*, Robert Henry Johnson's *Remyth: The Horse Project*, Victor Lodato's *The Bread of Winter*, and Deborah Baley Brevoort's *Women of Lockerbie*.

More information on the festival is available online at www.bayareaplays.org or by calling 263-3986. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Singing is running at the Greenwich Village theater that has been home to some of the high-profile gay nude shows. "At first I was worried about that," Schrock said. "But the audience in New York now is almost 50 percent gay and straight." That straight percentage is largely heterosexual women who can be very expressive during performances.

"It's always wonderful when we have those women in the audience," Schrock said. "Gay men go to gyms and stuff, so they get the opportunity to see that many penises all together, but I don't think women do. When was the last time a woman saw eight penises all in a row?" ▼

Naked Boys Singing will run at Theatre Rhino through Oct. 22. Tickets are \$20 and \$25. Call 861-5079.

Naked Boys

◀ page 35

night one of the producers mentioned to the director that I seemed kind of uncomfortable in one of my numbers. I said, 'Yeah, I'm not there yet. When I do it tonight, I'll pretend I'm wearing a wig and a lot of makeup, and it will be easier for me to sell.'"

Galster first auditioned without knowing much about the show. "I figured it was another gay exploitation play — with singing." Once it looked like he was going to be cast, he headed to New York and saw the show.

"It was very cute, very sweet, very silly, and very gay," he said. "It doesn't take itself too seriously, and yet it asks the audience to think about things, even this whole trend of nude theater."

In New York, *Naked Boys*

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The Mr. Louisiana Leather 2001 winners lined up at Harrah's Casino in New Orleans last Saturday, September 3. They are (left to right) Kenton Pope, 1st runner-up, the winner, Todd Cole, and Louie Thomason.

Sashes from New Orleans to SF

by Mister Marcus

The leather world was well endowed over Labor Day weekend, with two deserving contenders walking away sporting new sashes, including a new Mr. Louisiana Leather in New Orleans and, for the 18th year in a row, a Leather Daddy's Boy in San Francisco.

Down South, thousands of people from all over the world converged on the Big Easy to participate in the Southern Decadence Day celebration. Not everybody was ruly: In the main ballroom of Harrah's Casino, for instance, one of the local krewes managed to disrupt the Mr. Louisiana Leather Contest, which was itself a first in the annals of leather title events — a leather contest in a major gam-

bling casino.

Six contestants vied for the top spot in New Orleans: Mitch Carpenter; Todd Cole; Jim Johnson; Carl Manuel; Kenton Pope; and Louie Thomason. They faced judges Jill Carter, Larry Everett, Chuck Lance, Mark Malan, Dean Ogren, IML Mike Taylor and yours truly, and we all had a ball working with the men.

At the meet-and-greet at the Phoenix Bar in New Orleans, a massive crowd turned out, spilling out onto the street to enjoy a spectacular thunder and lightning show prior to a deluge that didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm a bit.

Frank Nowicki put his charm to work on Friday night and again on Saturday at the contest. All the bars had long lines waiting to get in, and I don't think I have to tell you there

was all sorts of debauchery taking place everywhere. Quite a few San Franciscans were in attendance, eagerly taking part in everything.

Mickey Hebert of the Lords of Leather managed to get his entire club and volunteers to help put on a knockout contest. A mammoth Leather Pride flag graced the stage at Harrah's, and after the parade of colors, a boffo juggling trio mesmerized the crowd, while the contestants were obliged to go through the scoring segments, (leather wear, speeches, and physique presentation). The crowd went wild when one contestant wore a Roman style leather skirt with nothing underneath. It was just enough of a tease to set the crowd roaring.

After a couple of power vocals by Danny Alfred, and a dynamite speech by IML Mike Taylor, more vocals were added by Jay Cooper. A collection for the Leather

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, September 8-10

New Jersey Leather Pride weekend in Asbury Park, New Jersey, featuring the first-ever Mr. New Jersey Leather contest, with Queen Cougar emcee'ing, a meet-and-greet on Friday, and the contest on Saturday, followed by the Fire Storm Dance. The price tag for the weekend is \$85.

Saturday, September 9

Cal Eagles ride to Santa Rosa; the Knights of Malta do an overnighter; and in San Diego, it's Annie Romano's big "Butch Revue" at The Hole.

Sunday, September 10

The Golden Gate Guards MC are having a beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, from 1600-1900, with all the usual fun associated with this group of guys.

Weekend, September 14-17

International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests take place at the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. Host hotel is sold out, but the \$100 bunk/dormitory for all three nights still has beds. Frank Nowicki will emcee; Martha Wash will entertain. Hunks representing the US regions, Europe and South Africa will compete for the title, and Tom Kiple's resort is in readiness for the big event. I'll be there to bring you the details next week!

Big bear event this weekend, produced by John Caldera, including the new Bear Cub weekend and contest, with a "Bears in Boxers" party at the

Lone Star on Friday night; a private bear play party on Saturday night, and the contest at the Lone Star on Sunday afternoon.

Friday, September 15

Boot and Bondage Party for boot lovers and their admirers at a private location. For invite and location, call 364-1820.

Saturday, September 16

Not a leather event, but tonight Michael Parsons and China Silk step aside from their Grand Duke and Duchess titles. They made a concerted outreach to the leather community and we thank them for a great job with the titles. Good luck to all the contenders for this year.

Sunday, September 17

San Francisco's Leather Pride Week kicks off today with the Leather Pride Walk, two miles, from Daddy's in the Castro to South of Market bars, ending up at the Eagle. Get your pledges in now and walk the walk.

After the walk, at least six of the 2001 Bare Chest Calendar guys will be auctioned off for dinner dates & other fun things by Lenny Broberg at the Eagle, with an \$8 beer/soda bust, including food and onstage shenanigans. Don't miss!

Tuesday, September 19

Exotica Erotica an evening of fashion and entertainment hosted by Pleasures of the Heart to benefit New Leaf at MCC Church. Tickets are \$75 and you can order them by calling 255-0381.

POLKSTRASSE

Pushy Phyllis is gold

by Sweet Lips

Empress XVI de San Francisco Pushy Phyllis, aka James Bliesner, celebrates his impending 50th birthday with a fundraising party to benefit the new San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Community Center under construction at Market and Octavia. Empress 16 Pushy Phyllis' Golden Jubilee will be Saturday, September 23 at the SoMar Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., from 6 to 11 p.m.

Pushy says everyone is invited, admission is free, and there will be a buffet prepared by Dennis "The Unique Chef" Tyler. The bar is no-hust, with proceeds to benefit the Community Center.

Three acts of entertainment by Pushy's closest friends of 25 years will be presented, along with the Ducky Awards. The domestic duck was, of course, Pushy's official bird as Empress.

A certain highlight of the

evening will be the drawing for a 7-night trip for two to Waikiki Hawaii, including airfare from SF. Tickets for the drawing are available from Pushy, Aunt Charley's Lounge, The Edge, Marlena's, Mr. Leona's Lounge and the Rendezvous.

Hawaii 5-0

It's luau time again! Reflections' 2nd annual Hawaiian Party is Sunday, Sept. 10, 2 p.m.-2 Traditional Hawaiian buffet by Gaylord and Chloe.

Big kahuna Hauser behind the bar. Discounts if wearing Hawaiian shirt: be there!

Players on Polk: It's high rolling at the Club Rendez-Vous on Saturday, September 9, when the 18s, Simeon Traw and Michael Vaticano, host the 5000 Follies. The games begin at noon, and you are encouraged to bring your favorite potluck dish.

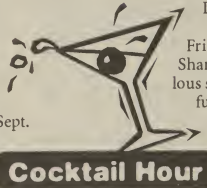
Ducal voting is also that day at both the Giraffe on Polk and the Pendulum in the Castro. A yes vote is needed for the most deserving candidates to win. Sweet Lips recommends a vote for Greg Osmon for Grand Duke.

Thank you, Wayne Friday, for the invite to Sharon McNight's fabulous show at the newly refurbished Plush Room in the York Hotel.

Sharon is the Sophie Tucker of our age, and she gives a grand

evening. Dennis "Hog-wild" Tyler is catering the Eagle's popular Anniversary Party on Friday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. Don't miss this one.

Yes, that was the handsome Mary Francis of the Santa Rosa Inn at the Club R-V the other day. Happy B'day on Tuesday, Sept. 12 to Linda Miller, our favorite post-mistress! ▼



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Archives & Museum took place after a nice speech by Jill Carter, and Dean Ogren made a call for support of the Leather Literary Project. The step-down speech by Chuck Lance was warm, vibrant and short, and he was awarded with a standing ovation. It was evident everyone loves their Mr. Louisiana Leather.

By 2300 hours, the scores had been tallied and the moment of truth arrived. The second runner-up was Louie Thomason of Jacksonville, Florida; the first runner-up was Kenton Pope of Baton Rouge, and the winner was Todd Cole, also of Baton Rouge.

A loud cheer erupted at the announcement and while medals were placed on the three finalists, including both a sash and a medal for Todd. Judging by the vast support given Chuck Lance by Louisiana leather men last year, Todd should have a great year with the title. He advances to compete at IML in Chicago next May, where I daresay he will be a force to reckon with.

SF Daddy's Boy

In San Francisco, only two men competed for the Leather Daddy XVIII title last Sunday, September 3 at the Eagle — John Amero and Bob Dern. The judges this year were Alan Selby, Richard Hunter, David Kloss, Peter Fiske, Laura Carlos and Lance Brittain.

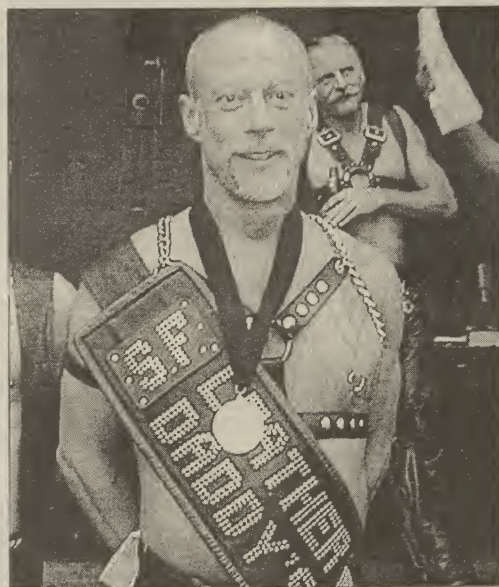
Keith Truitt teamed up with Tom Rodgers to emcee and auction, and the two candidates sold raffle tickets. All in all, slightly over \$3,000 was raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Bravo!

Solomon Rose, after some difficulties with a lousy sound system, managed to close out the show just before the winner was announced with some Latin numbers and a boffo Route 66 musical romp.

After Lance Brittain's dynamic step-down speech in support of the Boy concept, backed up with more words from Andre' English, the scores tallied by Tim Wong were brought to the stage. And so it came to pass that Bob Dern will wear the SF Leather Daddy's Boy XVIII sash for the coming year.

A huge whoop and holler went up from the crowd and, by shortly after 1800 hours, it was all over.

The sashes presented to the



Community activist, filmmaker, and businessman Bob Dern won the SF Leather Daddy's Boy XVIII contest title last September 3 at the Eagle.

winners both here in San Francisco and in Louisiana will stand for the betterment of both communities, with pledges of fundraising, consciousness raising, and the goals of unification and outreach.

It was, after all, a holiday weekend and celebrations lasted into the wee hours of Monday morning.

Alameda items

With regard to the Alameda County Leather contest in last week's column, know that the new Ms. Alameda County Leather's true name is Bianca Vigil, not Bianca Binky as reported here last week. Binky is a pseudonym she uses for email and other matters.

And, heaven forbid, never, ever leave Robert Davolt's name out of the credits for anything he has been involved with! I left his name out as being a judge at the Alameda County leather contest two weeks ago, and you can bet your boots he let me know of the omission. Sorry Robert — it was a Microsoft Word error!

That video

As you may have heard, at International Mr. Leather in Chicago this past May, a hunky guy named Clint Cooper was permit-

ted to videotape many aspects of the contest, including footage made in the pre-judging room. Well, the video is complete and the title of it is "Playing HARD @ Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000." It's \$39.95 and you can order it online by clicking on: www.channel1releasing.com/public/starthere2.htm

Californians must pay sales tax and there's a shipping fee involved. Or you can call (800) 997-9072 and the FAX order line is (800) 997-9073. For U.S. Mail orders, write to Channel 1 Releasing, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd, #525, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

More new titles

Yet another new title has been established in the world of leather contests. It's the first-ever Mr. and Ms. Southplains Leather, to be held in Dallas, Texas on March 2, exactly one week before the Mr. SF Leather contest.

A major "alternative" leather women's title competition will be staged in 2001, called Ms. World Leather. It is not intended to compete with Int'l. Ms. Leather, but to serve as an alternative for the empowerment of leather women, something most think is not there for them. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

N. We Met On July 30 While
Sitting outdoors of a bar on 15th Street. I regret not to have exchanged telephone numbers. Please call me. ☎ 72229

Whole Foods Deli, Mon 7/24 4:45
You: grey top, khakis. Me: blue sportcoat, tan shirt. Your smile captured my imagination. Too stunned, I barely "smiled" back. Can do much better. Would love to meet you. ☎ 72230

Badlands Sat Nite 7/29
You: short blonde hair, beautiful smile in green v-neck t-shirt with black/white trim. Me: Asian, short hair in white daruma doll t-shirt. Should have said hello. Too shy. Meet for coffee? ☎ 72231

Rincon Center Thurs Aug 3
Chris. We met in the elevator and met again by the post office. You took my hand. Wanted for at 6:15. Still hoping. Michael. ☎ 72236

Tues. 7/18-Bart/ Fremont;
You: tall blond/thinning, blue eyes, green. watch. Me: jacket, tie, brown/thinning, green eyes. Both boarded Civic Cir. you waved, exited Coliseum. I smiled. Coffee? Movie? ☎ 72232

Richmond Bart 8-5 Afternoon
You: shaved head, goatee?, tall, converse sneakers. Me: Asian, shaved head, tattoo. Made eye contact across car. I left @ Ashby; we smiled @ each other thru window. Let's talk. Coffee? ☎ 72257

David And Garth-San Gregorio
Beach. This is David and Woody from Utah. We met Friday 7/28. Had a great time- would like to keep in touch. Please call if interested. ☎ 72259

White Electric Van Blond Goatee
Fri 8/11 at 1pm Diamond Hts Blvd, Village Square Apts. You: in overalls, asked if I wanted ride downtown. Me: sitting on low wall, blue shirt, blue tennis shoes, said a friend was picking me up. ☎ 72291

Kabuki Spa Thurs 8-10 6pm
You (GWM) were coming while I (GAM) was leaving. Shared mutual smiles. You said I was a "good looking guy"; I replied "aw shucks." I'd like to buy you a drink! ☎ 72292

Baker Beach Parking Lot, 8/10
You: gorgeous Asian man giving massage to friend on bench. Me: man in silver car who couldn't take his eyes off you. You left too quickly. Call me. ☎ 72307

Sexy Asian Feet In The Park
Months ago I licked mud from your toes while you jacked off. I would love to lick your feet again. ☎ 72290

Muni Tues Aug 15
You: handsome Asian with great arms & torso. Me: tall, caucasian, goatee, glasses. Sat behind you, rode Muni escalators at Church St. To shy to speak. Coffee? Lunch? Dinner? ☎ 72309

Costco Elevator Aug 3rd
I held door open for you. You: Great smile! Dark and handsome. May I have the pleasure again? Dinner? ☎ 72293

Andy, Lush Lounge Sat 7/29
Your great smile and smoldering looks caught me off guard and left me speechless. I would love a second chance to ask for your number. Coffee, dinner, talk? ☎ 72258

Yasmin At Power Exchange 8/13
Sunday after midnight-- you asked if you could call, I gave name to look up. If I still interested, leave message & e-mail or phone where I can reach you. And yes, I love to cuddle! Alan from Oakland. ☎ 72306

~Can't Stop Thinking About U!~
On Muni, we got on @ Church St., rode to Civic Center on 8-17 @ 6:30pm. You: White jeans, blue plaid shirt, leather baseball cap. Me: red hair, black pants, grey shirt. Call! ☎ 72308

Checked Out At The Check Out
Costco check out. You: tall, handsome blond. In next line over. Noticed tattoo on rt leg. Smiled as you were leaving. Me: green shirt, and pants, with boss. Wish I could of done more than smile! Dinner? ☎ 72294

Denny-Eagle/Lone Star Sun 8/27
Lost you before exchanging numbers. You: Latino, great smile, hot PA Me: Leatherman, gave you my hairy to flag in common: brains, masculinity, life-altering childhood event. Let's connect. ☎ 72337

Great America Tues 8/22
You: grey shirt, khaki shorts w/ 3 friends in front of me, and my friend on Ultimate Sky Dive Ride. Me: black shorts, white tank. I'd really like to talk! ☎ 72338

"Cute Butt"
Tues, 22 Aug. 4 pm ish; corner 16th/Market: adorable man wearing baseball cap, going to Cafe Flore, met friends...shy muscular Black, admirer, wants to meet you- call! ☎ 72339

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Asian ISO White Male
Asian male, 36, 146lbs, 5'7", attractive built, smooth, fun. In search of White male in their 30's, smooth, built, lean for friends and date. ☎ 72233

Seeking Man To Love For LTR
I am 5'8", 140#, 35, slim/athletic. Hand-some Japanese. Blk/hair-eye, mustache. HIV-. Looking for a serious man, 55+ over. Interested in bir/monogamous-oriented. W/wh/air A+. Serious only pls. call. ☎ 72234

Blond Seeking Hung Blond Top!
44y/o, musc tanned, smooth, 150, 5'8" HIV- great ass, educated, East Bay, friendly, romantic, bottom. ☎ 72235

VGL Latino Boy ISO Older Man
You: 335-50, good looking, financially secure, and fun to take care of a great boy. You won't be sorry! ☎ 72236

Bottom For Bottom Or Top
GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs. HIV+, Italian/German, brown/hazel, beard seeks lean snug buddy 5'10" or taller, 30-45 for cuddling. ☎ 72237

Travis Where Are You?
It's been four years. I need to see you. Last time I saw you, you were bald and working at a cafe @ Haight and Masonic, P.S. Black male! Remember? ☎ 72238

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc GWM
40y/o, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light smug, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Oct. Nude photo required, but photo get mine. I am HIV- pos/ok! ☎ 72239

GAM Top To Love For LTR
GAM seeks mature GWM; HIV- n/s/d; healthy w/ht proportionate for a friend/dinner. Slim & spfller a plus but not mandatory. ☎ 72260

Aggressive Asian Men
GWM wishes to meet and establish a long time love relationship with Asian men. Let's hold, touch & kiss each other. I love to suck a long time. ☎ 72261

Big Man For You
Attractive, 50, 5'9", 200, 350lbs. You: attractive GWM (White, Asian, Latino), slim. My arms hold what the world lacks. Hugs & kisses come first. ☎ 72262

~GWM Looking For Romance~
GWM 53 5'9" 170lb. seeking GWM 40 to 60 HWP for dating, movies etc. (n/d,n/alcohol) Interested in a relationship. ☎ 72263

Slave Seeks Master
A rare Master is out there somewhere. Seeking strong connection between Master, service, pain/joy, "spiritually," and trust/connection to which I feel capable hands. Slave talk/slim defied. 3B. ☎ 72263

Gay Eagle Scout Seeks Soulmate
All American guy, seeks outdoors type man for LTR. 45yo, HIV+, no meds, master. Prepared, reg nurse, serious only. ☎ 72264

Attractive Fun GWM
40 GWM 6'4" 230 professional- All American- seeks 36 to 42- San Jose to SF- 5'8" or taller- single, emotionally available- sense of humor- romantic- dating- LTR. ☎ 72265

RU HIV+ Masc. Top?
Haw/Flp 41 5'5" 152 HIV+ btm w/insatiable appetite smooth affectionate & honest. Seeks masc. top man w/insatiable appetite in shape or stocky built 30-55 old. For romance to hot tasty times LTR possible. Into cuddling, kissing, massage movies, dinner, rimming. ☎ 72266

ISO Athletic Asian- RU GYM toned?
Six pack, great abs. Want to meet prof Asian. Call me. ☎ 72267

Young Handsome Russian
Looking for an intelligent Russian or European under 40y.o. to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed! ☎ 72295

Are You Under 5'10"?
SF professional GWM, blond, balding, very fit 43, 5'9", 155, HIV- (ub2), seeks vers. or top. I'm masculine, honest, stable, social drinker with a dry humor. Prefer shorter/fit. ☎ 72296

Lets Make A Home
Passionate, intense top looking for life partner. 5'10", 147#, 32yrs. olive skinned professional. Seeks man 3B+, mature, stable for monogamous LTR. Not into bars. NS/ND. ☎ 72297

Son Seeks Hirsute Dad
W/M 43, masculine, buzzed, bald, beard, 6' 172, hairy, active submissive, healthy poz. My life is interesting, adventurous and together. Travel, leather, home, enthusiasm. ☎ 72310

Professional Black Men
GWM, bottom, always horny loves to lay down and suck you for a long time. I also loved to be fucked on a LTR. Steady sex. ☎ 72311

Hot Bottom Seeks Dominant Top
Looking for hot top to plow deep in me. Into bondage, tight pain & you. I'm 45, White, smooth and need a Master. ☎ 72312

Sweetheart Single Latin HIV+
GLM-37, 5'8"-158lb, athletic/mast, honest. Looking for any race, under 40yrs, smooth & slim. Versatile or top, like movies, dining reg, like sex, dancing. ☎ 72314

"Financially Secure Male Wanted"
By a guy who is educated, intelligent, sexy, good looking. Looking for a relationship or just plain hanging-out. ☎ 72315

GAM 49 Seeks GWM 60 or Over
For LTR, prefer clean shaven and non-smoker. ☎ 72316

All The Wrong Places
Handsome, furred, tall, musical, HIV+ GWM, 36, seeks smart comely, oversexed bottom "boy" with huge vocabulary, nice manners and will grin for penetrating conversation, PDAs, afternoon nookie and civilized disobedience. ☎ 72317

Wired Funny
~Black male, 5'10", 180, 42, dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, educated professional, into books, cycling, workouts, etc. Straight acting, regular guy, but totally submissive in bed. Seeking muscular, masculine dominant top. ~ ☎ 72319

Bi-Curious RWC Stud
M/W/M, 35, 5'10", 155, gliking, sincere, clean, shy yet horny. ISO (18-35) local studs for hot, discreet encounters... All suggestions considered. S 72320

~Sane, Fun, Normal Guy!~
GWM, 39, fit, healthy, 6ft, 175lbs, sense of humor, stable, bright seeks GWM 35-45, HIV-, confident, interesting, fun regular guy to date, get to know, LTR? ☎ 72341

East Bay Muscular Guy
Goodlooking 31 year old 5'11", 180# 32w. Looking for similar. My dog must like you. ☎ 72347

"Boy Friend Wanted!"
A rare Master is out there somewhere. Seeking strong connection between Master, service, pain/joy, "spiritually," and trust/connection to which I feel capable hands. Slave talk/slim defied. 3B. ☎ 72263

Hot Bottom, Poetic Soul
Passionate, patient and reliable. Languages, traveled. Well preserved 60. Chunky, hairy, 5'8", br/blu, 175lbs. Prefer bigger but open to all types. Race, age, don't matter if you can do it. ☎ 72343

Only One Thing Missing- LTR
You: Asian Pacific or Latino, probably over 60 (maybe not) Me: attractive, GWM, 5'10", 190, White hair, retired professional. Together: enjoy walking on beach, flying kites, discovering each other. ☎ 72344

Tall Guys Wanted
6'1", 295lbs, clean shaven, handsome caucasian versatile funny down to earth, spiritually aware, established creative professional. Interests, music, movies, outdoors, good outings, quiet times at home. HIV- please. ☎ 72345

Friends? LTR? HIV+ East Bay Boy
Aren't there any great looking HIV+ guys looking for a great relationship? I'm 31 y.o. tall good looking & seek a slender cute & hot lover. I'm romantic sweet & honest UB2! ☎ 72346

Hunk Seeks 69 Fanatic In S.F.
Hairy, inshape GWM wants same into mature hunk for mutual oral/nip/ball action. Me: gym'd, hairy, 5'11", 180, 50, HIV+. You: inshape, hairy chest, 40-50, totally oral as me. Prefer hot hunk. More than one-night-stand if chemistry, attraction, compatibility. ☎ 72340

SEEKING ADVENTURE

White Guy Seeks Hung Men
GWM 40, 6ft. 185, and goodlooking, seeks hot well hung men for oral, and more. All nationalities are welcome. No one over 40 please. ☎ 72240

Two Become One
35, GWM, HIV+ great humor, love outdoors, love the beach, love great old movies, seeks someone with same interest, 40-50, HIV+ into the same. Bottom. ☎ 72241

One-Wild Fuck
WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue versatile muscle man, likes to get wild all nite long. Call anytime. Also love to get massaged. ☎ 72242

Good Problem To Have
I fuck all my buddies, it must be the tall-dark-handsome thing. I want a guy (couples are fun too), to fuck me. I'm 45, HIV-safe sex only. Call, describe yourself. ☎ 72243

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160#, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 72244

Magic Hands
I give long slow intense erotic massages to formal training, but I have the intuitive touch. Btl's, straight, very discreet, versatile, and safe. No reciprocation required. ☎ 72245

How Blunt Can I Be?
I need my vintage Black Oakland tool sucked 2-3x weekly by an experienced expert. Please no beginners, beards/goatees, indirect phone numbers. ☎ 72246

Hey! Wanna Wrestle?
Fit, 6'2", 175lb. 40y.o. GWM wants to wrestle fit, playful guys for fun, submission, and/or pins. Trunks/tee, Speedos, nude. Your fantasies welcome. Maybe winner decides loser's "punishment"? ☎ 72247

Get Naked And Jack Off
Well hung exhibitionist wants to stroke tool with other naked men. Indoors or outdoors. Strip down, pose and show off, big hard cocks, Group scenes and dares get bigger erections! ☎ 72248

Virile Encounters
Sough by GWM (out of town), 60, 6'2" bearded bear with Bay Area men over 6' during monthly overnight visits: maybe dinner and a show. ☎ 72249

Seeking Hot Hung Thick Top
Sophisticated bottom visiting SF in August. Looking to have a good time, 5'8", 130lbs. Hazel/grey, brown hair, 40yrs old. Well hung a plus. ☎ 72250

Hoods & Ski--masks
Blond collar skinhead, 28, tattoos gives hot blow jobs wearing ski masks, hoods, beanies, derby jackets. Have ski mask collection, dig cholos, tops. Santa Clara. ☎ 72251

Spunk Me
You frat boy 24 needs lover the knee action from a dominant kick brother. China town SF. ☎ 72268

Generous Handsome Professional
Generous in-shape Asian professional 40 seeks goodlooking in-shape HIV- bottom or versatile guy with class for regular companionship. ☎ 72269

Spanking And Affection
GWM, 49, 5'10", 170, bearded, hairy seeks attractive men, under 50, prefer hairy into hot, sensual, give and take bare bottom spanking along with kissing, cuddling + jo. ☎ 72270

Black Top Wanted
attractive GWM straight acting, but very submissive, seeking Black top to orally service and be dominated by. Prefer clean, well built men who can take control. ☎ 72271

Black On Black
I want a Black man 29 to 55 for fun and more. Let me take out wine and dine you. I am 45, 6'1" lbs. I like B" to 10" of tool on you. ☎ 72275

GAM Seeks Ongoing Sex Partner
Who enjoys cockworship. GWM mature. Versatile; HIV- n/s/d; slender/slim bottom a plus. Pos LTR. ☎ 72271

Blow Job Service
Asian, 50, 5'8", 150#, goodlooking, HIV-, mustache, cleancut, excellent cocksucker, seeks GWM, HIV-, with hairy body, mustache, goatee or beard on regular basis. ☎ 72272

Blk Guy Sks Top Dom Aggressive
+ Raunch, kink, sleaze + eve & some wk ends. ☎ 72273

Shut Up And Ride
35, WM, 5'10", 195lb. blond-blue, muscular, versatile guy wants goodlooking masculine men to fuck with all nite long. Also love to get massaged and jacked off anytime. ☎ 72274

Bicurious
WM, 6/180/42, gym body, divorced, Irish-Italian, nice package, looking to serve WM, smooth and hung. HIV neg ub2. Let's do it! ☎ 72276

Dominant Black Men Who Enjoy
Using their submissive White fuck toy cocksucker for their personal enjoyment GWM 5'8", 155 hairy and very obedient for you. ☎ 72277

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- ☐ Parting Glances
☐ Seeking Relationship
☐ Seeking Adventure
☐ Lesbian
☐ Fetishes
☐ Couples
☐ Others

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
 Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Rape Fantasy: Make Me Take
Your hard tick, w/ meat between my
kissable lips, nice, hairy scobs. Non-
freak, regular, naturally handsome. 5'11",
155#, 30's athletic, nice. You: Sane,
dark(7), playful in shape-ish. 72278

Straight Has 3 Part Fantasy
Masculine WM 58 seeking older smaller
than normal sized Asian to fuck my face
and virgin ass finishing by jacking off on
my face. Safe sex practice during ass
play. 72298

ISO Top For Weekday Romp!
Versatile cub, 30, 5'6", 169#, trim
stache, furry tummy & butt. ISO top or
versatile WM 25-45 for ongoing after-
work romp. Couples encouraged, facial
hair a plus. 72300

Nympho Asian/American Bottom
Babes hung thick wanted. 3 to do me at
one time. HIV- bottom, likes fit, toys all
but pain. Hot!!! SF Bay Area 40's late
30's. 72301

Oral Excellence
Friendly 49er has opening for 1-2 face-
fuckin' studs. Hot mouth, deep throat
soothe achin' nuts, restore serenity! Work
me, buddy. Big tool essential! Trim build,
facial hair A+. 72322

Buttfucker Wanted
ISO top, 35 & under, GWM, masc., 6'+.
Me: submissive bottom, GAM, 5'9", 160,
35, gdlg, straight acting, into it, dildos.
72304

Fat Daddies Have The Best Laps
And the fleshiest spanking hands for little
lads? Bubble butts, like mine. Slay your
meaty thigh and bend me over, butt up,
leg dangling, for a hot thorough pound-
ing. 72321

I Wanna Suck Your...
Cock & ass. Do you like prolonged ses-
sions w/ hot tongue buried up your butt?
Mouth around your cock? If so, I'm your
man. Italian, 45, 6', 195#, rugged build
stud w/goatee. 72323

Torrid Phone Sex!
"Start!" get it up! babe, cocking, nipple
clamps, whatever? Let your imagination
run. Let's talk, jack off, and cum! 72324

Times Change! In Days Of Yore
It was courteous. My proof, I'm a master
cockucker(my guys repeat) you will too!
72325

Mulatto Guy. Sexy, Educated,
Intelligent, creative, good looking; seeks
guy who are good-looking or hung for fun
and good times. 72327

Cute Guy w/Body Loves Butt Play
Sexy, masc, ymg 40's, bmbm, stache,
goatee, 5'7", 145# well proportioned,
very nice butt, positive attitude, sincere,
free spirited looking to hook up and have
fun! Your masc, 30-45, 5'8"+. 72303

Hot Italian Skis Big Cock
Hot & horny Italian bottom, 45, 6', seeks
 studs 18-40 for the best oral sex and ass
eating you've ever had! 72302

Wanna Cum Over?
GWM, 45, 5'9", brown/brown, mustache,
in-shape, attractive, HIVneg, single seeks
fun-loving healthy hunk 5'8" or shorter.
Afternoon tea! Upper Market. 72299

Your Personal Cockucker
Talented hungry attractive 37yo guy seeks
one easy-going well hung 24 to 44yo to
suck on a regular basis. I'm HIV+ your
status unimportant. Serious only please.
72350

Gay Artists, I'm Looking For
Gay Artists, so we can get together and
discuss art and other things. Please contact
me. 72329

Sock Washer!
GWM 35, handsome, will appreciate your
warm, moist nylon socked feet after a
hard day's work. Manual/oral massage
feels great while you lie back. Relax, melt,
release. Businessmen, waiters, uniform a
plus. 72332

Gourmet Delite
GWM with big clean feet, cut meat. Cum
get naked, let me pleasure you with my
older tongue and mouth, love to. 72354

Spr'd Yr Cheeks Ride My Tongue
Expert butt eater, 41, 6', 170 bmbm/46
big bushy mustache looking for hot trim
edible butts, George. 72330

Seeking Wild JO Partner 65+
Masculine straight WM wants to be tied
down and have cock tormented until it
screams for release. 72331

Dad Seek Son
Mid 50's hairy dad slim HIV- seeks W
slim son HIV- who likes to suck 7" uncult
cock. 72356

Hot Submissive Asian!!
5'8", 140#, very smooth, swimr body, tight
bubi-butts; seeks other 4 bondg, spankg,
fsg, groups videos etc. etc. 72348

Italian Guys! I Was Born To
Serve you. No one knows how to please
Italians guys better than me. If you're
hung, then that's a plus. 72326

Hung Guys Wanted! I'm Looking
For guys who are hung "9" inches or
more for fun or good times. Please contact
me. 72328

Seeking Submissive Gd/gk Boy
Under 40 to serve as my personal prop-
erty on a regular basis; son, slave, etc.
Daddy-Master is 76, attr. and dominant.
"Love and Respect shared!" 72355

"A Great Catch!"
GF seeks WPM European for marriage of
convenience or circumstance. 72333

Black European
Bottom HIV- 6'1", 30, masculine, in-
shape romantic seeks top, HIV-, 30-50 fit
man affectionate who enjoy romance,
food, conversation, safer sex encounters.
72349

"Big Tongue, Strong Teeth!"
Let me work over your nipples a lot, then
you sit on my big tongue and cum on my
chest, older a plus-Me 57, thick, beard.
72357

ISO Foot Master
Handsome slender Asian male loves to
service attractive dominant men. Verbal a
plus. Open to all foot scenes. 72353

Butch Versatile Party Man
Hot & Horny 50 GWM 5'8", 140#
HIV+, very versatile with 8" cut cock
with big helmet head and ass to match.
Looking for partying fuck buddy! 72351

Una Noche
5'10", 170lbs. GLM early 40's short dark
brn hair, brn eyes, mustache seeks hot
studs for fun LTR possible friendship.
Safety is a must. 72352

FETISHES

FF Bottom Wanted
50's GWM, HIV-, with big hands and
wristy seeks GWM, HIV-, with accom-
modating hole for exploring and pleasure.
Anus/herbs ok. 72252

Mutual Spanking
WM 60, seeks others into mutual spank-
ings scenes in Castro. No pushy bottoms
please. 72253

Seeking Big Tool With Big Load
Masculine mostly straight WM 58 wants
to watch you stroke your throbbing cock.
See, feel your hot cum splatter my face
then wash it clean with natures golden
nectar. 72254

"Pain-Looking, But Hung!"
East Bay man 47, gets off watching a
thick mustache up and down on my thick
stuck. Oakland area; serious. No
beards/goatees, super busy or hard to
reach types. 72336

Two Heads Are Better Than One
Bi, W/M in Oakland, HIV+, open and dis-
creet, seeks singles or couples for oral
pleasures. Shaved a plus. 72280

Erotic Rope Bondage
Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, good-
looking, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape
submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic
bondage, gags, toys, discipline, light sm
negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East
Bay. 72283

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! 72287

Drag Queen Threesome Fantasy
Me: Bi-male 52, ISO drag-queens for fun:
pluses: red-heads, cigar smokers, 65
French, Greek, -jlo, be my teacher. 72284

I'm A 2nd Slave
And don't cum. Am 57 & healthy. You
order me to prepare: buddy's hole, drink
ws, + watch you screw. I clean you & him,
then leave. 72360

Enemamate Desired
40's bi DWM, trim, clean, HIV(-), sincere
sexual, discreet seeks exploring all
facets. 72285

I'll Serve You Deeply
Handsome, sexy, professionals, w/office or
quiet res/hom in area during or after
business hours. Masculine, clean, discreet.
72286

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! 72234

Make Me Fat
GWM, 37, 5'10", 240lbs., brown eyes
and beard seeks other GM gainer/encour-
ager to make me even fatter. 72361

East Bay Nipple Freak
P/R/ Cuban B/M seeks masculine men for
hot sex and friendship. New to the East
Bay/Lake Merritt area. Nipple workers
A+. 72305

Slaved Boy Wanted
By leather top, 50's, 6', 225, hairy chest,
masc with dunghole. US submissive oral,
bottom into sm, kink, eager to serve.
Muscular, hairy, under 45 pref. 72335

I'm A 2nd Slave
And don't cum. Am 57 & healthy. You
order me to prepare: buddy's hole, drink
ws, + watch you screw. I clean you & him,
then leave. 72360

Enemamate Desired
40's bi DWM, trim, clean, HIV(-), sincere
sexual, discreet seeks exploring all
facets. 72285

I'll Serve You Deeply
Handsome, sexy, professionals, w/office or
quiet res/hom in area during or after
business hours. Masculine, clean, discreet.
72286

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Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! 72234

Make Me Fat
GWM, 37, 5'10", 240lbs., brown eyes
and beard seeks other GM gainer/encour-
ager to make me even fatter. 72361

OTHERS

Married, Straight Needs Hung 10+
In Vallejo will travel works in SF. Want
hung thick cocks or pretty tvs or and femi-
nine men. 72289

-Male Companion Wanted----
Bossy, older, sexy, witty, unconventional
bachelor in S.F. wants Boy Friday, Gen-
tlemen's Gentleman, sexual servant, &
Jeeves. Please enquire. 72362

François Ozon

◀ page 31

and unproduced little play by the
master of domestic *Sturm und
Drang*, Rainer Werner Fassbinder.
Written by the 19-year-old Fass-
binder, the play is an amazingly
prophetic look at the Svengali-like
lover the adult Fassbinder would
become.

Water Drops on Burning Rocks
begins with a pickup. Fiftyish
Leopold, an insurance salesman
whose clients have conveniently
suicidal tendencies, a kind of
gone-to-seed Dirk Bogarde,
brings 20-year-old Franz home to
his tastefully sterile apartment.
Franz is a high-strung redhead
who chain smokes and bites his
nails. Leopold is good at playing
games, and Franz hates to lose.
This couple will be locked togeth-
er, cobra and mongoose, 'til death
do them part. For Leopold and
Franz, sex is a fantastic game, and
everything else is *merde*! Five
months pass, and the shy boy is
now wearing an apron, playing the
happy housefrau, preening and
priming for hubby.

But pleasing Leopold is a losing
game — he always wants the last
cigarette, the last word. Leopold
starts to whisper to the boy about
making a little money on the side
— boyfriend becomes wife, wife
becomes whore, boy becomes girl,
man becomes bored and looks for
new plaything. And on and on
down the sexual food chain.

Water Drops on Burning Rocks
is the easiest to admire and the
hardest to like of Ozon's films re-
leased in America. As Leopold
turns the screws on the once-sweet
Franz, you want to holler at the
screen. "Kick the old bugger out!"
But of course, Franz is already be-
coming Leopold, who is in turn
only a pettier version of that great
Shavian bully, Henry Higgins. As
the song goes, "You'll be sorry, but
your tears will be too late."

Ozon saves his dark side for the
screen — a pussycat on the set,
nobody has yet reached for the
razor blades. While not abusing
his actors, Ozon has made a good
career out of killing his father. In
his short *Little Death* (*La Petite
Mort*), a teenager sneaks a camera
into the hospital room where his
father lies dying, blows up the
photo, cuts out the father's eyes
and puts the resulting death mask
over his own face (a sly parody of
the Oedipus complex).

"It's vengeance. He wants to
steal his father's eyes," says the
boyishly handsome director as if
truffles wouldn't melt in his
cupid's bow of a mouth. Follow-
ing a Saturday night Castro
screening of *Criminal Lovers*,
Ozon receives as many marriage
proposals as serious questions.
"The story is about the difficulty
of having a relationship with your
father when you are gay. My father
took photographs of me when I
was young. In the film there is a
picture of [the young man] as a
baby. A voiceover explains that
when his father saw his face, he
said, 'It's not my baby, it's too
ugly!' All his life he thinks his fa-
ther hates him, and at the end of
the film he understands some-
thing else.

"It's my story with my own fa-
ther. I need to kill fathers in my
films, I know that."

Break up the family

As a kid, Ozon instinctively
feared his father's gaze. "My father
had a Super 8 camera, and I didn't
like his films. So one day I took the
camera and said, 'Now I will make
my own films.' I made family films
with my brother nude, my sister
doing strange things." A cinema
terrorist, Ozon delights in ripping
up the bourgeois family album, de-
constructing the prison of family
life and executing the inmates.
"One of my short films was the
story of my brother — he killed all
the family, my mother, my father
and my sisters. My family agreed to
do the film with me because they
said, 'If you do that in the film, you
won't do that in the reality! So we
prefer to be killed in the film.'"

A decade later, these sado-
masochistic home movies turn up
as Ozon's deliciously dark family
farce *Sitcom*, in which Dad dreams
of assassinating his family. Dad
turns into a rat whose murder
frees the family. "I wanted to de-
stroy a family, and at the end of
the film another family appears —
a new family with gay people, les-
bian people, sado-masochistic peo-
ple! It's a family for the new mil-
lennium."

Drag is surprisingly absent
from the body of Ozon's work,
with the exception of the short *A
Summer Dress* (*Une Robe d'Été*).
Ozon says he was inspired by the
image of a boy riding a bicycle
while wearing a dress. A young
man teases his boyfriend by mani-
cally miming Cher's recording of
"Bang-Bang." Pissed, the

boyfriend rides to the beach,
where he has sex with a young
woman whose dress he borrows.
The dress, as if spun from Spanish
Fly, reignites the passion in his
partner, who lustfully rips it from
his body. Ozon resists sentimen-
talizing the relationship between
the two boys and makes the Cher
song do double duty, both de-
scribing the relationship and mo-
tivating the fight that fuels their
lovemaking. Ozon is proud that *A
Summer Dress* was the most pop-
ular of his gay-themed shorts in
France. "The film arrived at a time
when we discovered that you
could have a sexual life with AIDS
[and] without guilt, that you
could have sex with condoms and
do what you liked to do."

Race plays a subversive role in
two of the films. In *Sitcom*, a
young man's dinner table decla-
ration of his homosexuality leads to
his seduction by the African hus-
band of his family's maid. *Crimi-
nal Lovers* pivots around a teenage
girl's twin desires, lust and homi-
cide towards a handsome Algerian
boxer. The naïve French boy's im-

potence with her conceals a
nascent attraction to the Arab boy
he murders.

At the heart of *Criminal Lovers*
is Ozon's fascination for the
women he calls his "screen bitch-
es. I enjoy giving to female char-
acters that same cruelty normally
seen in men. Feminine manipula-
tion is always much stronger,
much more exciting. There is a
particular sensuality in a woman's
cruelty. In my short *See The Sea*
(*Regarde La Mer*), I showed out-
right the truly evil nature of the
character played by Marina de Van
without any psychological expli-
cation for the cruelty of her acts."

In *See The Sea*, a twentysome-
thing American woman, Sasha,
nurses her infant child near a re-
mote beach while awaiting the re-
turn of her French hubby. A
young backpacker, Titania, asks to
pitch her tent. Charmlessly
anti-bourgeois, Titania licks her
plate clean, sticks Sasha's tooth-
brush in the toilet and has a
creepy affinity for the kid. Ozon
gradually increases the volume of
dread in this seaside *Rosemary's*

Baby. Sasha goes searching
through Titania's tent, reading her
diary, perhaps fantasizing about
being free to float through life.
The film's shattering climax ar-
rives with the husband, and with
it, I feared was going to come my
first cinema girlriot. A number of
women at the Roxie that night
identified with the psychotic kid-
napping drifter.

Now, François Ozon has the
charm and looks of a movie star,
built like the sets at Disneyland to
5/6-life-scale. This tiny, pretty man
seemed no match for these film-
goers scorned, but his critics soon
ignored him and started arguing
among themselves.

Ozon is bemused by the sexual
politics of the Roxie audience. "For
me, it's not a gay or lesbian film.
There is no lesbian relationship
between the women, but the
American lesbians recognized and
identified with the stranger girl,
and they don't like the image of
this woman because it's not posi-
tive. But I didn't want to make a
lesbian film, I just wanted to make
a story about a criminal female." ▼

Hank Greenberg

◀ page 33

Times of Hank Greenberg, opening
Friday, tells the story of America's
first Jewish diamond star. "Ham-
merin' Hank" Greenberg was
raised in New York, but had to go
to Detroit to break into the show.
Suiting up just as Babe Ruth
passed his prime and Hitler field-
ed his Brown Shirt team, Green-
berg was a role model for a gener-
ation of Jewish men at a time
when your religion determined
where you could earn a living.

New York Times columnist Ira
Berkow was too young to see
Greenberg swing for Ruth's single-
season home run record, or power
the Detroit Tigers into four World
Series in 10 years, but Berkow re-
members "my uncles talking
about Greenberg's baseball ex-
ploits as if he were a kind of bea-
con for them. He was the first
truly great Jewish ballplayer and,
ironically, a power-hitter in the
1930s, when the position of the
Jews in the world — especially, of
course, in Hitler's Germany —
grew weaker."

Harvard's Alan Dershowitz re-
calls another irony of Jewish ath-
letics. "I remember my family
cheering for Hank to succeed, but

always that fear would creep in:
maybe he shouldn't hit too many
home runs — get close to the
Babe's record but not break it, so
as not to fan anti-Semitism."

Anti-Semitism, as the film
poignantly demonstrates, was at a
full gallop in the '30s. An umpire
is seen halting a 1935 game to
quell Jew-baiting from the oppos-
ing dugout, and many experts still
believe that Greenberg was walked
a suspicious number of times dur-
ing the 1938 season, as he fell just
two homers short of matching the
Catholic Ruth's feat. Greenberg
would be fated to play his last sea-
son in 1947, the year Jackie Robin-
son endured a torrent of racial
abuse — Greenberg is shown
being one of the first white players
to support Robinson on the field.

Swing from the heels

*The Life and Times of Hank
Greenberg* mixes contemporary
interviews with the familiar grainy
shots of Greenberg swinging from
the heels. A big guy for his time,
he had the look of a half-filled
dump truck trying to pave over
rather than merely circle the bases.
An all-too-brief but amusing in-
terview with the late Walter
Matthau produces the quip, "I
grew up wanting to be Hank
Greenberg." Viewers fill in the

punch line — but I had to settle
for *The Bad News Bears*.

Role models have to be visible
to be models. Recently, gay fans
have had a glimpse into the lock-
er room, but only after our guys
have hung 'em up. The horror sto-
ries of Glenn Burke, umpire Dave
Pallone and even Dodger man-
ager Tommy Lasorda's gay son didn't
make *Advocate* cover boy Billy
Bean feel like coming out before
retiring from a 10-year career with
three teams. "I knew I was one
step away from someone yelling,
'Get the fuck out, you don't be-
long here!'"

Well-intentioned and fitfully
moving, *The Life and Times of
Hank Greenberg* just misses scor-
ing with today's turned-around
ballcap X-Games crowd. Green-
berg, in the end, was just the kind
of well-paid sports idol that our
times are revolting against. I'm
holding out for the film of *Behind
The Mask*, where gay ump Pallone
stands up against baseball's
all-star felon Pete Rose, as
"Charley Hustle" tries to get a sta-
dium mob to literally run the
queer boy off the field. ▼

**The Life and Times of Hank
Greenberg opens Friday at
Opera Plaza Cinemas.**

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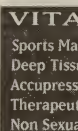
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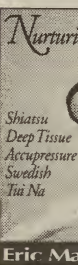
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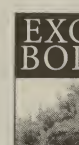
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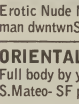
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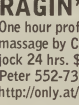
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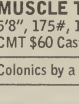
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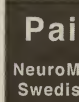


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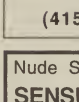
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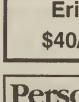
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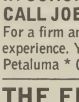
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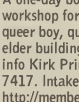
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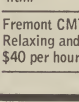
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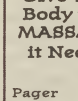
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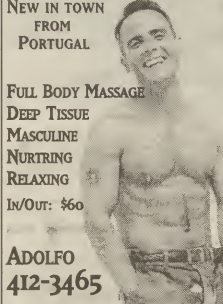
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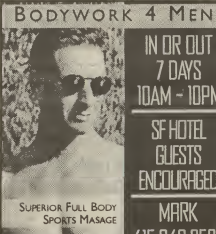
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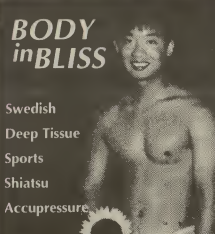
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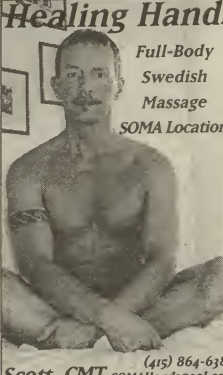
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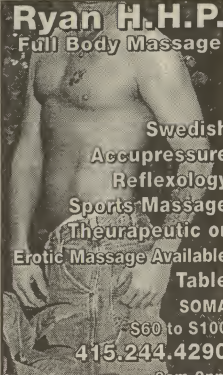
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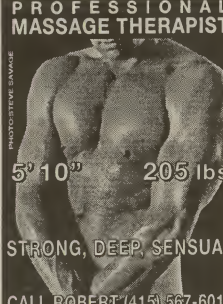
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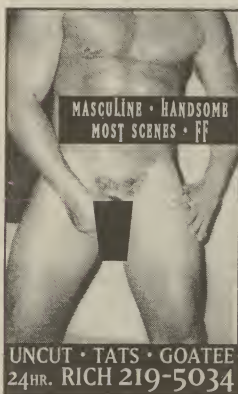
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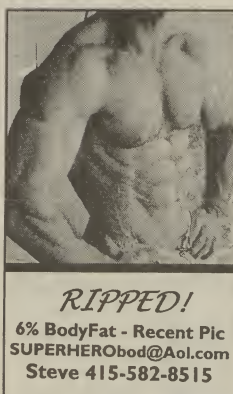
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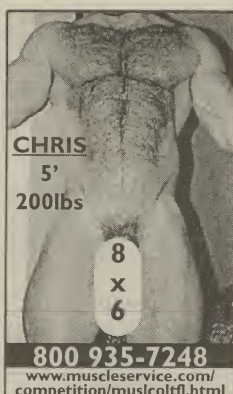


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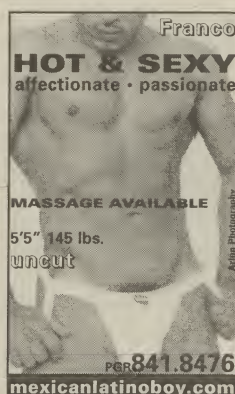
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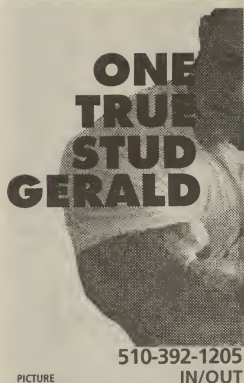
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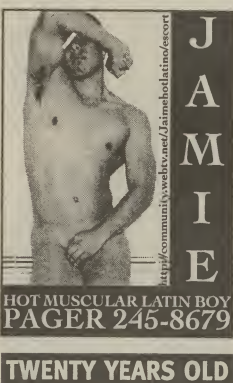


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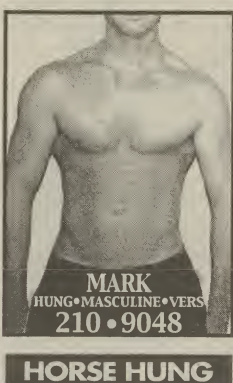


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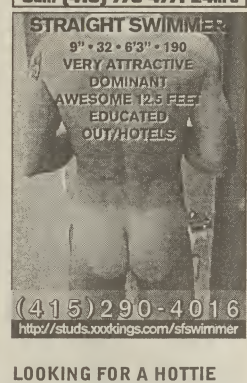


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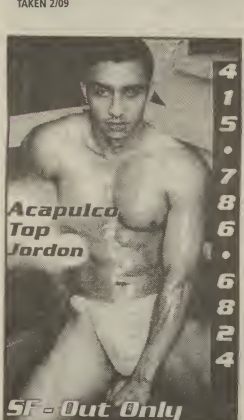
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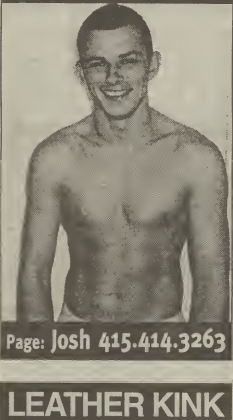
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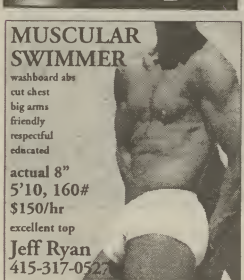
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5'11", 165lbs 9" cut-
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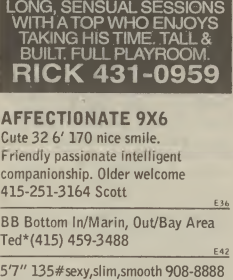
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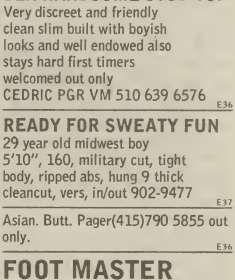


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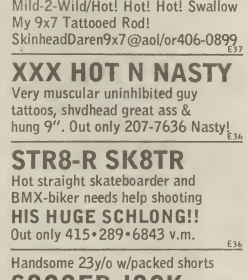
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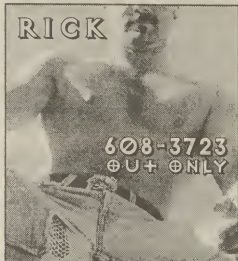
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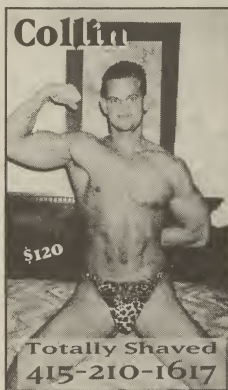
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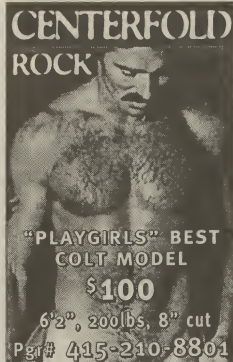
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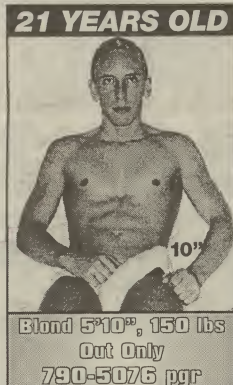
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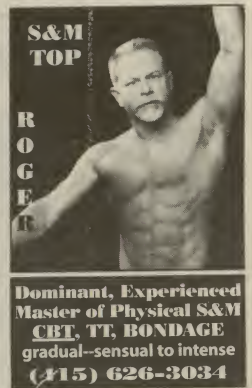
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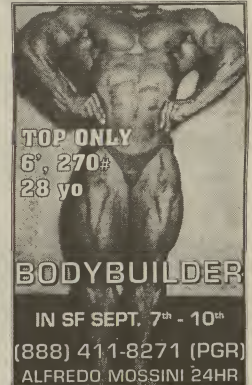
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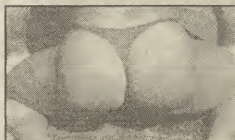
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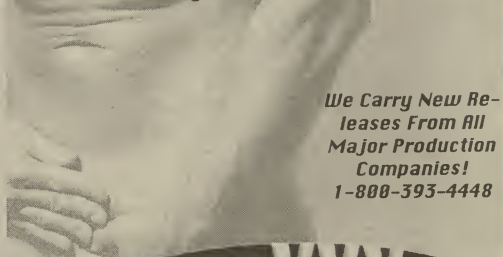
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A collage of various James Watson & Co. Scotch Whiskies and Broon's London & Glasgow labels, with a bottle of James Watson & Co. Scotch Whiskies prominently displayed in the foreground. The background is a dense, overlapping pattern of these labels, featuring text such as "JAMES WATSON & CO. SCOTCH WHISKIES", "BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND", "BY APPOINTMENT TO THEIR LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE III", "RARE OLD SCOTCH WHISKIES", "BROON'S LONDON & GLASGOW", and "THE LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE III". The bottle in the foreground is a dark glass bottle with a white label that reads "JAMES WATSON & CO. SCOTCH WHISKIES" and "BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND". The bottle is positioned diagonally, with its neck pointing towards the top right corner of the image. The overall composition is a rich, textured background of historical branding elements.

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